Aishu Ai

スペインのあるカフェ・バーでシェリーを呷っていると湾岸戦争の勃発を聞いた。その日「1月17日」は私の誕生日である。ゼロ、それは私の魂であり、そして分身である。（愛英史）

Kei Satomi

僕はデビュー当時から外国が舞台となる作品が多い。でも海外は昔たけで、大陸にはまだ一度も渡ったことがない。いつか自分が舞台とした世界を実際に見てみたい　（里見桂）

●月刊スーパー[illegible]H2年11月30日増刊号と[illegible]3月号 5月号～6月号増刊分収録。

[illegible]加納美

JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ゼロ

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

原作 愛英史
漫画 里見桂

Vol. I

SUPER JUMP COMICS

SUPER JUMP DELUXE

ゼロ

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

Vol. 1

原作 愛英史
漫画 里見桂

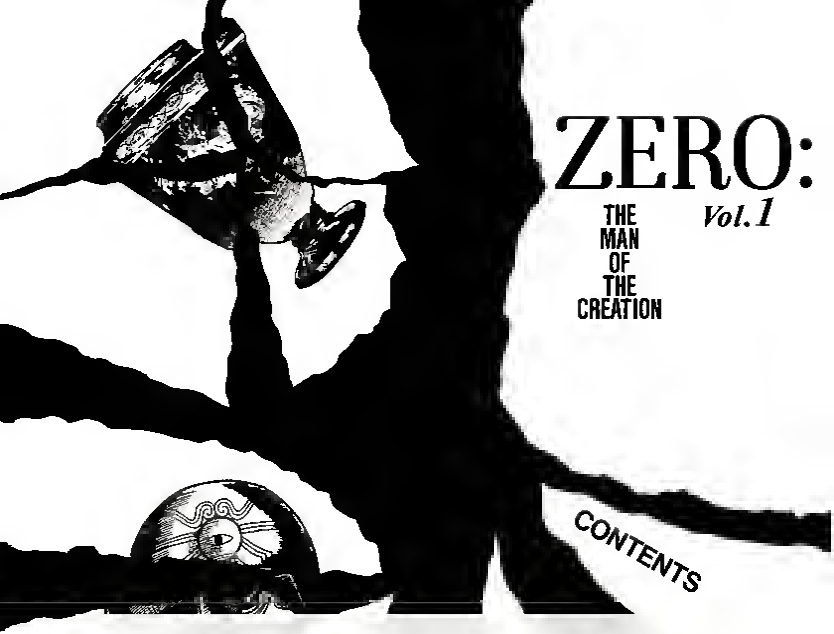
集英社

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

ゼロ

ZERO: THE MAN OF THE CREATION

Vol.1



ZERO: Vol.1

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

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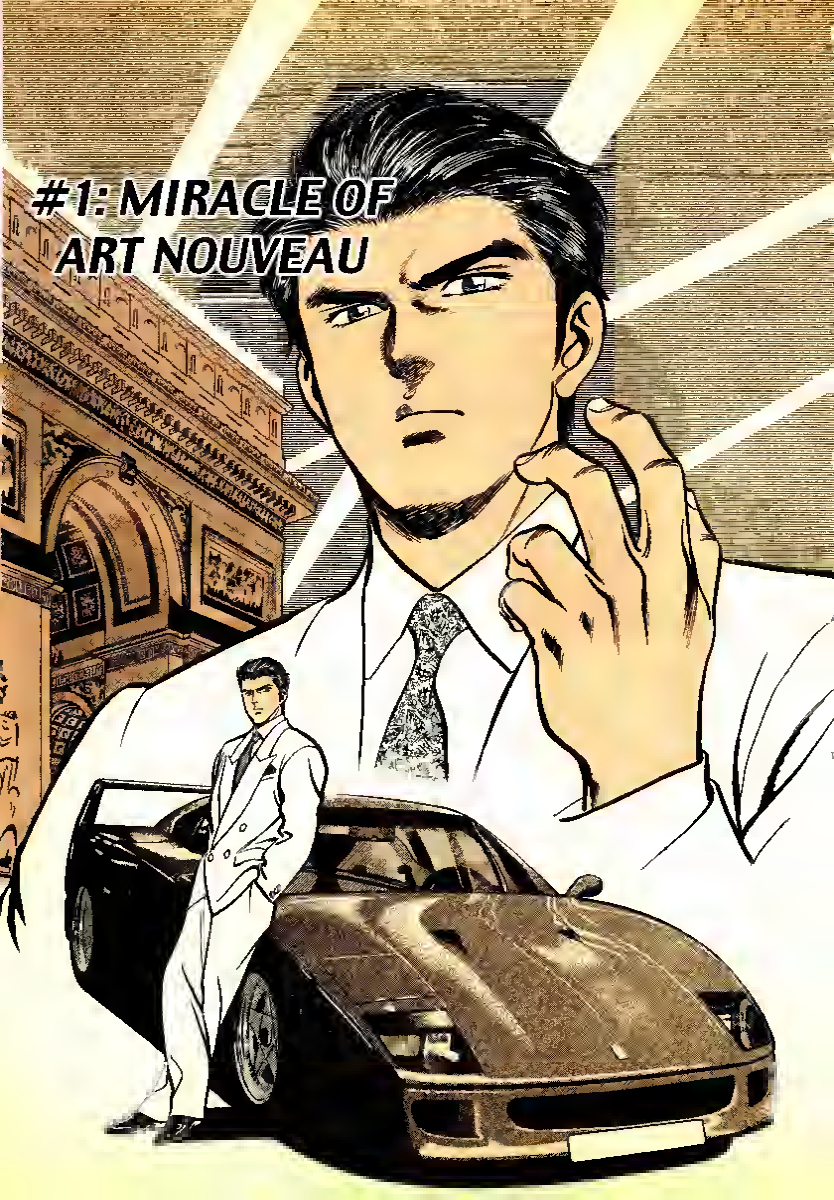
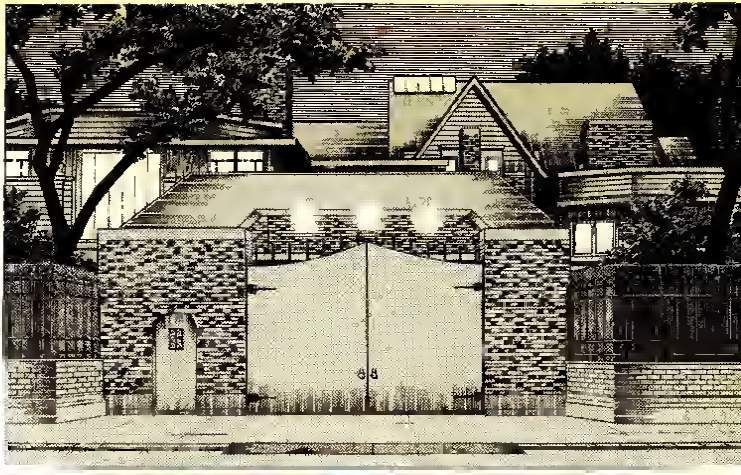
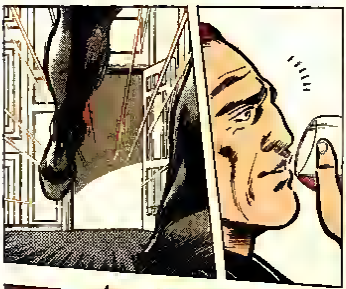

#1: MIRACLE OF
ART NOUVEAU



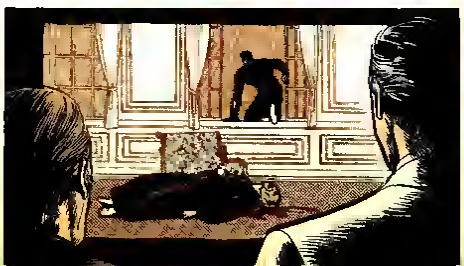


GGH!

YOUR TIME'S UP.

GGG GGH!
HIS MUSCLES HAVE CONTRACTED, PULLING THE KNIFE INTO THEM!!
I CAN'T PULL IT OUT!

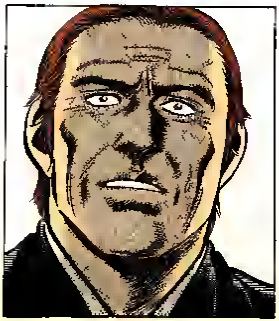
HEHE... I CAN ALMOST SEE THE INCOMPETENT BUREAUCRATS AND FINANCIERS PANICKING OVER HIS DEATH
AND THAT'S THE END OF THE SHADOW PRIME MINISTER KODAMA IWAO, THE MAN WHO MANIPULATED JAPAN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES AT HIS WHIM



UGGH!
I THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN SIGHTS LIKE THESE PLENTY OF TIMES BY NOW.
TO LOOK UPON MY OWN CORPSE, EVEN IF IT IS A FORGERY...
THIS SIGHT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE

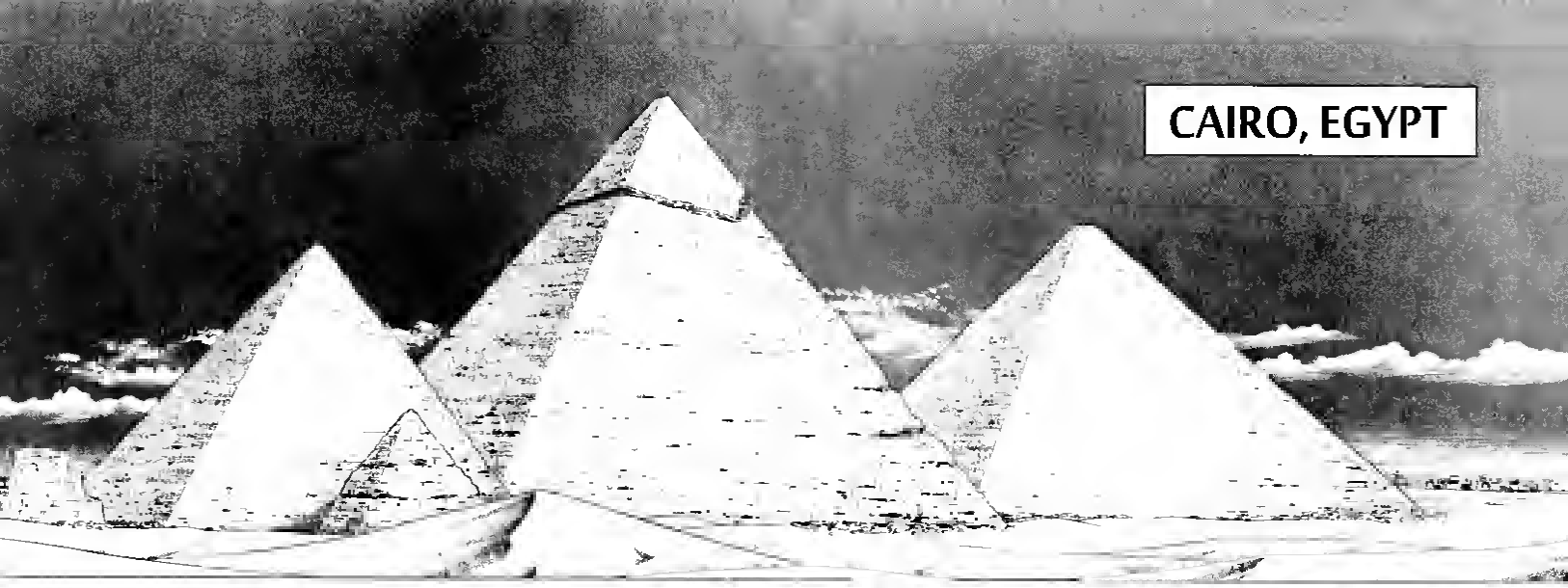
THAT MAN LYING DEAD THERE IS THE REAL YOU.
I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T DENIGRATE MY WORK WITH SUCH A VULGAR WORD AS "FORGERY".

EVEN THE MOST CREDIBLE DOCTOR WOULD ATTEST THAT THIS CORPSE BELONGS TO YOU.

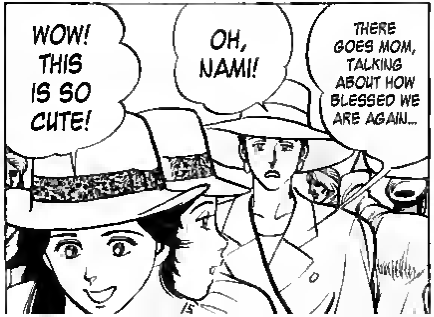


PLEASE DEPOSIT THAT AMOUNT INTO THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS.
YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO GAIN VAST SUMS OF MONEY BY MANIPULATING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES OF JAPAN AS YOU PLEASE, JUST LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN, WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE
YOU SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT PRICE FOR ME TO GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE.
F-FOUR BILLION ...!?
JUST THINK OF IT AS CANCELLING A MAJOR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.

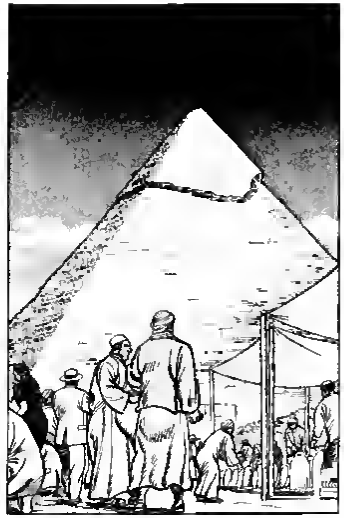
WHAT A TERRIFYING MAN...
ZERO...
THE MAN WHO CAN REPLICATE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...

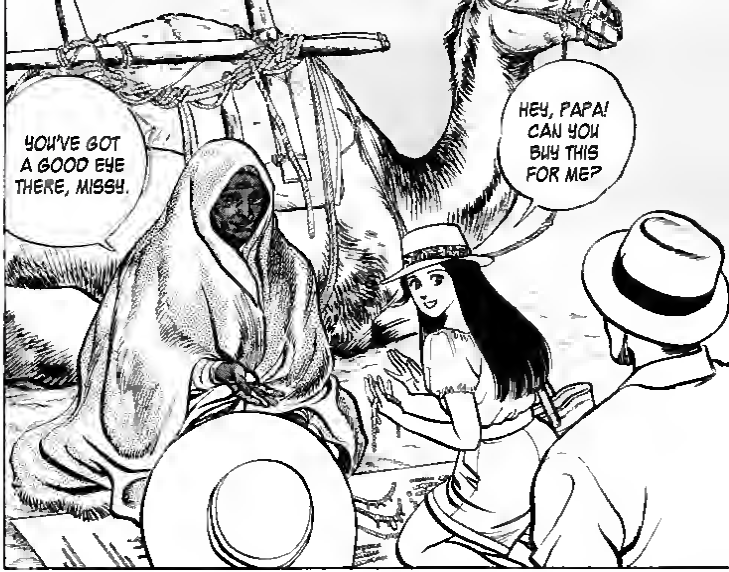

CAIRO, EGYPT

AND NOW WE'RE IN EGYPT LIKE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED. WE ARE SO BLESSED.
HEHEHE... FATHER'S BUSINESS IS GOING WELL, AND NAMI WAS ACCEPTED AT HER FIRST-CHOICE SCHOOL...


WOW! THIS IS SO CUTE!
OH, NAMI!
THERE GOES MOM, TALKING ABOUT HOW BLESSED WE ARE AGAIN...

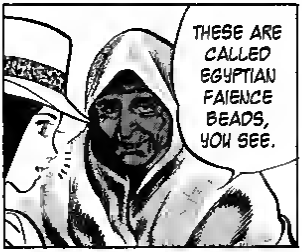
WOW, HOW PRETTY!




YOU'VE GOT A GOOD EYE THERE, MISSY.
HEY, PAPA! CAN YOU BUY THIS FOR ME?

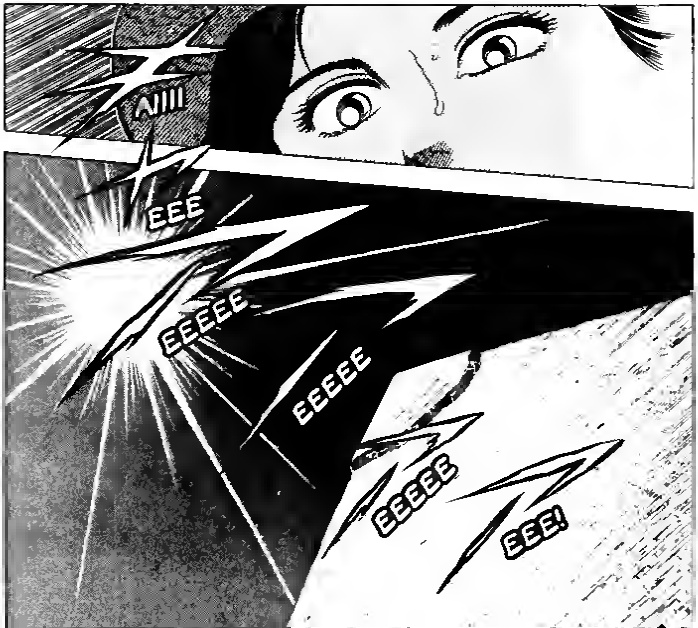
THAT MAKES ME WANT IT EVEN MORE!

WOW, THIS ONE LOOKS NICE, TOO!
I'M SORRY, THAT'S NOT FOR SALE.


THESE ARE CALLED EGYPTIAN FAIENCE BEADS, YOU SEE.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT FOR SALE
HOW MUCH WILL YOU BE WILLING TO PART WITH IT FOR? I'VE GOT LOTS OF MONEY
A-ALRIGHT ..
PAPAAA AAAAA!
WHEN THIS VASE IS FILLED WITH WATER, YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF THREE YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
IT'LL BE JUST ONE DOLLAR. HEEHHEEH ...
IT'S NOT FOR SALE, MISS, BUT YOU CAN LOOK INSIDE IT IF YOU LIKE.
NO WAY! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT THIS JUST CAN'T BE TRUE!
NAMI, LET'S JUST GO. THIS IS TOO EERIE FOR ME.

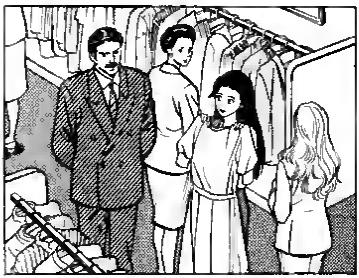
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
OH, HONEY... YOU'RE ALWAYS SPOILING NAMI.
HMM .. I GUESS IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR YOU TO SEE YOURSELF LOOKING A LITTLE MORE WOMANLY.
HEY, PAPA! I'LL BE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN THREE YEARS, RIGHT? I WANNA SEE!
HERE YOU GO, MISSY.
トクトク
ZING

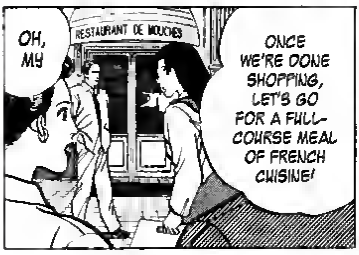

AIIII
EEE
EEEEE
EEEEE
EEEEE
EEE!

Art Nouveau's "Vase that Shows the Future" Found

One of the miracles of Art Nouveau, "The Vase of Orpheus and Zeus", which was stolen from the Museum of Paris seven years ago, has been found and returned to the Museum of Paris.

The Vase of Orpheus and Zeus



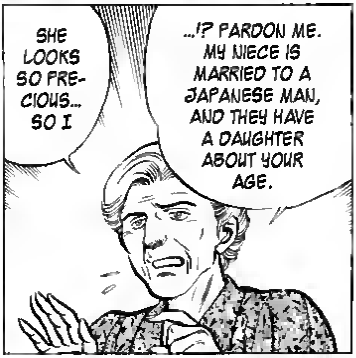


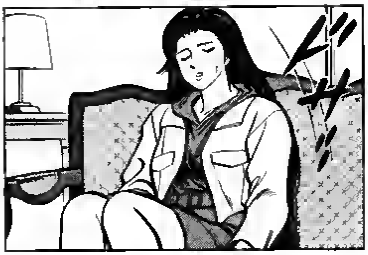
RESTAURANT DE MOUCHES
HAHAHA.. THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS. KIDS THESE DAYS JUST DON'T BELIEVE IN VASES THAT SHOW THE FUTURE..
REMEMBER HOW DE-PRESSED SHE WAS DURING OUR LAST VACATION..?
I THINK I'LL GO FRESHEN MYSELF UP, TOO.
PARIS HAS GOTTEN QUITE DUSTY SINCE WE LAST CAME HERE. I FEEL SO REFRESHED AFTER WASHING MY FACE.
MADA-MOISELLE
PHEW...

AHHH HHHH HHHH HHHH HHHH HH!

PAPA !!
WHAT'S THE MATTER !?

OH, NO .. IT'S NOTHING. MY APOLOGIES.


SHE LOOKS SO PRE-CIOUS... SO I
...!? PARDON ME. MY NIECE IS MARRIED TO A JAPANESE MAN, AND THEY HAVE A DAUGHTER ABOUT YOUR AGE.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I'M GETTING TIRED ...
I KNOW LET'S GO SEE THE OPERA
I'LL RESERVE THE TICKETS RIGHT NOW...

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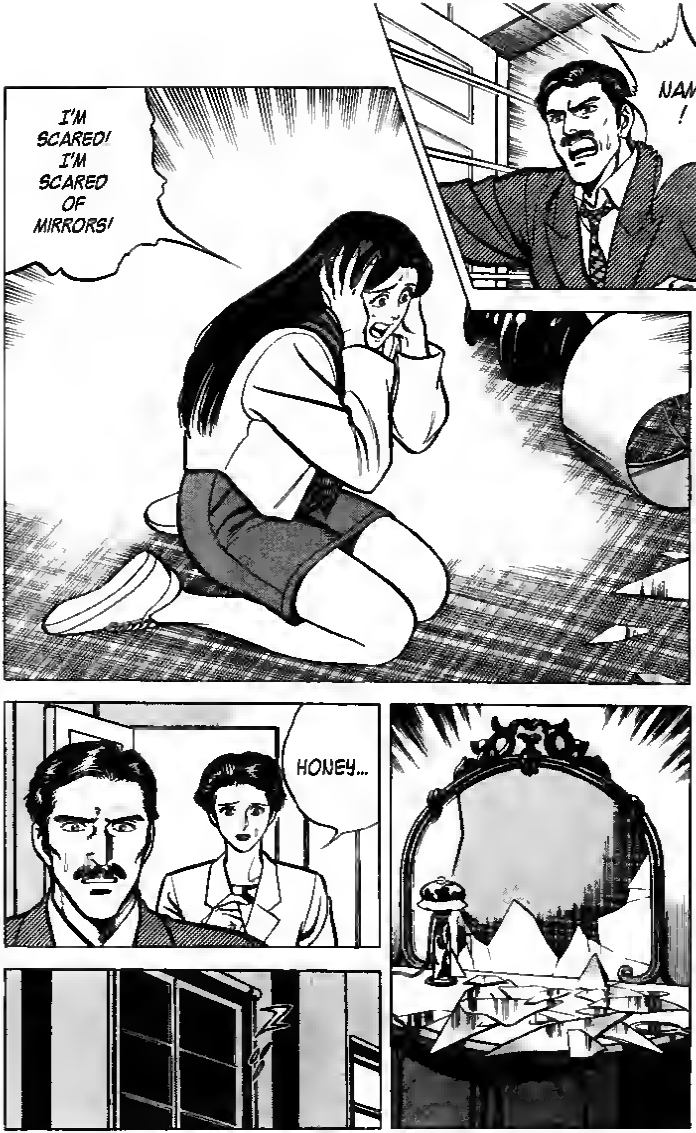
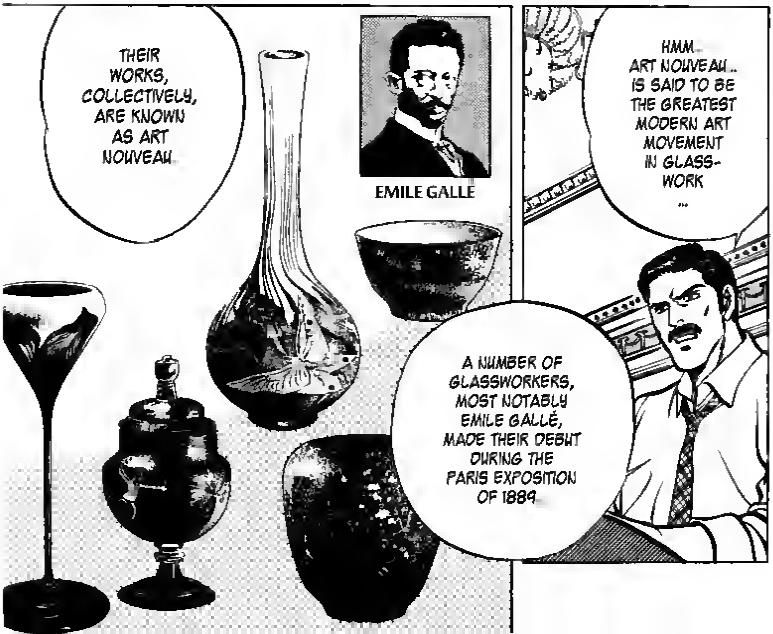

NAMI!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED OF MIRRORS!
HONEY...

YOU LOOK TIRED YOURSELF HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
GOOD
SHE'S FINALLY ASLEEP
110
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT EXACTLY IS ART NOUVEAU !?
AND WHAT'S THIS "VASE OF ORPHEUS AND ZEUS" THAT CAN SUPPOSEDLY SHOW THE FUTURE?


THEIR WORKS, COLLECTIVELY, ARE KNOWN AS ART NOUVEAU
EMILE GALLE
HMM... ART NOUVEAU... IS SAID TO BE THE GREATEST MODERN ART MOVEMENT IN GLASS-WORK ...
A NUMBER OF GLASSWORKERS, MOST NOTABLY EMILE GALLÉ, MADE THEIR DEBUT DURING THE PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1889.

AND ONE OF THE MIRACLES OF ART NOUVEAU IS THE "VASE OF ORPHEUS AND ZEUS"
IT'S SAID THAT THEIR ARTISTRY IS IRREPRO-DUCIBLE, EVEN WITH THE TECH-NOLOGY OF TODAY
AFTER THAT, ART NOUVEAU GLASSWORK PEAKED AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1900, THEN DECLINED ...
YES... ABOUT THAT ...
SO WHAT MAKES IT A VASE THAT SHOWS THE FUTURE ?
ITS ARTIST IS UNKNOWN, BUT THE STYLE SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS MADE BY A STUDENT OF EMILE GALLE
BUT INSTEAD SHOWED THE FACE OF AN UNSIGHTLY HAG
THE WATER WAS SUPPOSED TO REFLECT HER BEAUTIFUL FACE ...
.....
A WELL-KNOWN FRENCH WOMAN ONCE FILLED THE VASE WITH WATER TO SEE HER REFLECTION

!!
YES THE WOMAN LAUGHED IT OFF... BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED THREE YEARS LATER
YOU DON'T MEAN
AND SHE MAY HAVE FORGIVEN ANY AFFAIRS HER HUSBAND HAD, IF HE REMAINED IN HIGH SOCIETY
THE WOMAN HAD NOBLE HERITAGE, AND WAS VERY PROUD ON ACCOUNT OF IT.
WHILE IT WOULD SEEM THEY HAD A HAPPY MARRIAGE, HER HUSBAND HAD A MISTRESS
SHE COULDN'T HELP BUT DOUBT WHAT ALL THE LOVE HE HAD SHOWN HER ACTUALLY MEANT...
BUT HIS MISTRESS WAS A COMMONER. AND THE WOMAN WOULD NOT STAND FOR THIS COMMONER BEARING HER HUSBAND'S CHILD

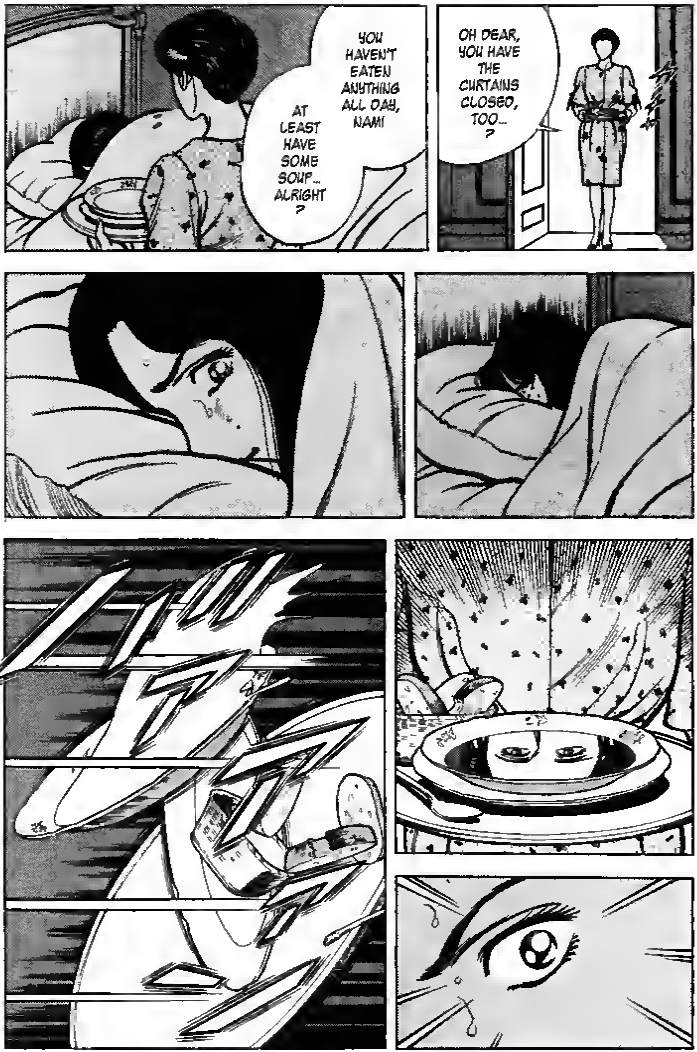
AND IN THAT MOMENT, HER FACE LOOKED JUST LIKE THE HAG ...
SO THE WOMAN WENT MAD, STABBED THE MISTRESS WITH A FORK, AND RIPPED THE FETUS FROM HER WOMB ...

T- THAT'S AWFUL ...

THAT SHE HAD SEEN IN THE VASE OF ORPHEUS AND ZEUS THREE YEARS AGO

AHH !
NAMI !!
DAMN! SHE WAS LISTENING ...!

I-I DON'T WANT ANY
U-UMI, WHY DON'T YOU GET CHANGED SO WE CAN GO FOR BREAKFAST ...?


YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING ALL DAY, NAMI
AT LEAST HAVE SOME SOUP... ALRIGHT ?
OH DEAR, YOU HAVE THE CURTAINS CLOSED, TOO... ?

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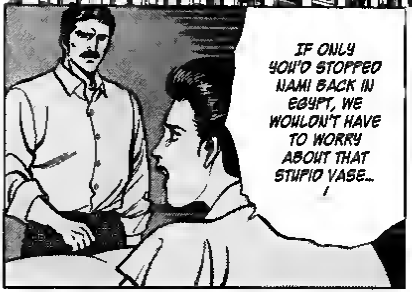
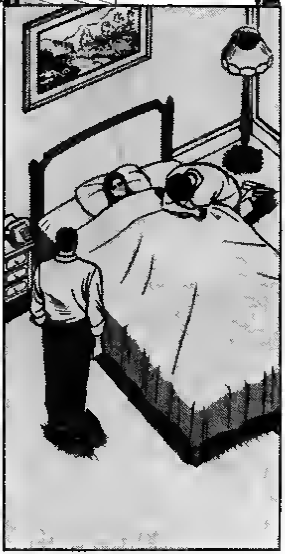
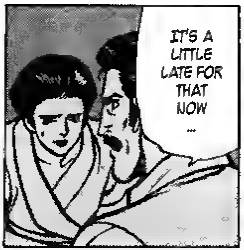
TWO DAYS LATER.

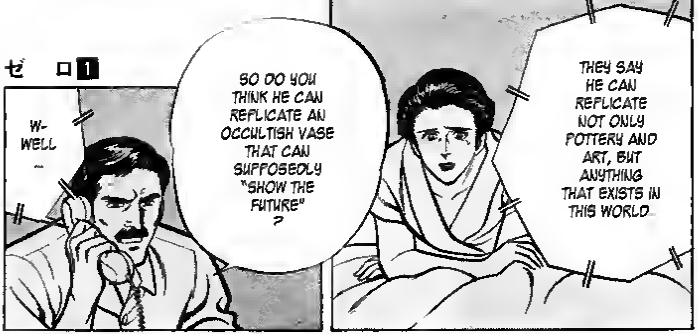






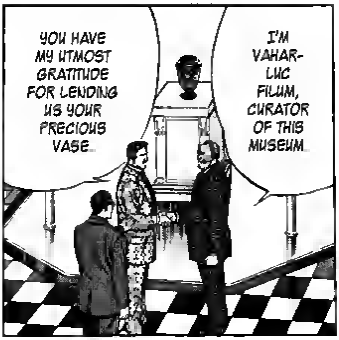
YES! THE TRUTH IS, WE CAN'T SAY THIS PUBLICLY BECAUSE HE'S INVOLVED IN ILLICIT JOBS...
BUT WE HAVE A PROFES-SIONAL COUNTER-FEITER.
THIS IS SUZUKI FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.
OH! SO HOW DID IT GO!? DID YOU FIND SOMEONE !?

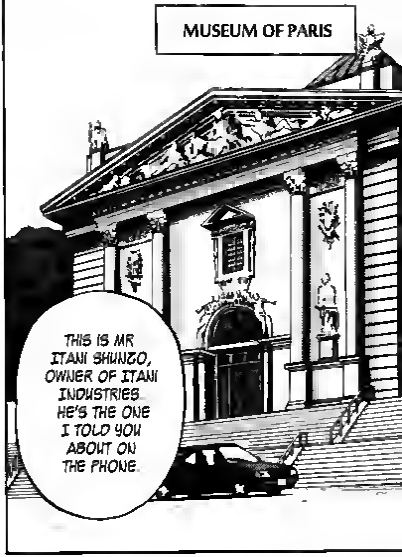
HELLO?

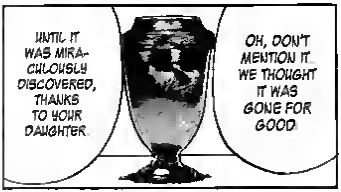

W-WELL ...
SO DO YOU THINK HE CAN REPLICATE AN OCCULTISH VASE THAT CAN SUPPOSEDLY "SHOW THE FUTURE" ?
THEY SAY HE CAN REPLICATE NOT ONLY POTTERY AND ART, BUT ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD

ZERO !?
WHAT'S HIS NAME ?
ZERO ...
HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD THAT WOULD BE CAPABLE OF FIGURING OUT THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE VASE
WHAT I CAN SAY IS THIS

GET IN CONTACT WITH HIM! I'LL PAY ANY PRICE HE ASKS !!
FINE! I'M GRASPING AT STRAWS HERE!
NOBODY KNOWS HIS TRUE NAME OR NATIONALITY
THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE WHO KNOW HIM CALL HIM ZERO.
VERY WELL, SIR

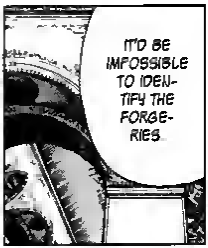

YOU HAVE MY UTMOST GRATITUDE FOR LENDING US YOUR PRECIOUS VASE.
I'M VAHARLUC FILUM, CURATOR OF THIS MUSEUM.


MUSEUM OF PARIS
THIS IS MR ITANI SHUNZO, OWNER OF ITANI INDUSTRIES. HE'S THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT ON THE PHONE.


UNTIL IT WAS MIRACULOUSLY DISCOVERED, THANKS TO YOUR DAUGHTER.
OH, DON'T MENTION IT. WE THOUGHT IT WAS GONE FOR GOOD.

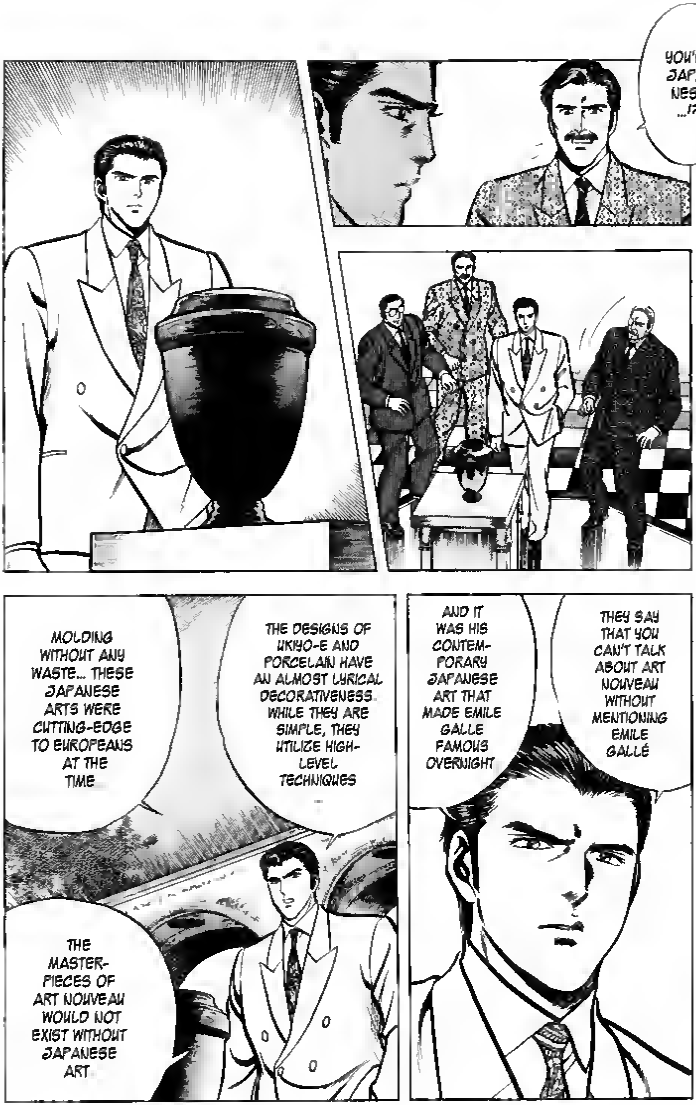
I WAS HOPING I WOULD NEVER HAVE TO MEET HIM.

SO... WHERE'S THIS ZERO?


IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE FORGERIES.

AFTER ALL, EVEN IF YOU KNEW THAT NINE OUT OF TEN PIECES OF ART WERE HIS FORGERIES, AS LONG AS ONE OF THEM WAS THE ORIGINAL...
HIS COUNTERFEITS HAVE HORRIFIED ART APPRAISERS AROUND THE WORLD.

THAT'S BECAUSE EVERYTHING I CREATE IS THE ORIGINAL.
ZERO !


YOU'RE JAPANESE ...!?
THEY SAY THAT YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT ART NOUVEAU WITHOUT MENTIONING EMILE GALLÉ
AND IT WAS HIS CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE ART THAT MADE EMILE GALLE FAMOUS OVERNIGHT
THE DESIGNS OF UKIYO-E AND PORCELAIN HAVE AN ALMOST LYRICAL DECORATIVENESS. WHILE THEY ARE SIMPLE, THEY UTILIZE HIGH-LEVEL TECHNIQUES
MOLDING WITHOUT ANY WASTE... THESE JAPANESE ARTS WERE CUTTING-EDGE TO EUROPEANS AT THE TIME
THE MASTER-PIECES OF ART NOUVEAU WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT JAPANESE ART

AND ONLY JAPANESE POTTERY HAD THE TECHNIQUES TO REFLECT A SUBJECT ON THE SURFACE OF WATER.
MR. SAKAKI, I'M BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE, MAKE ME A DUPLICATE!
IF I LOSE HIS GOOD GRACES, I'LL LOSE MY POSITION, TOO!
I ACCIDENTALLY LOST THE HEIAN-PERIOD SUE WARE VASE THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE A CERTAIN MINISTER A WEEK FROM NOW!

I CONSIDER MYSELF AN ARTIST, AS WELL. I DON'T WANT TO RUIN MY NAME...
AND ARTISTS VALUE THEIR NAME ABOVE THEIR LIFE...
I UNDER-STAND, BUT... COUNTERFEITS ALWAYS GET EXPOSED SOONER OR LATER.
SO YOU'LL MAKE IT? I OWE YOU GREATLY !!
I UNDER-STAND ...
ONCE I FIND THE ORIGINAL, I WILL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THE MINISTER, AND HAVE IT REPLACED !!
I'M BEGGING YOU BECAUSE I HAVE GREAT EX-PECTATIONS OF YOUR ARTISTRY !
OF COURSE!
IN RETURN... WILL YOU PROMISE ME YOU'LL RETURN IT ONCE YOU FIND THE ORIGINAL?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, FATHER !

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE. I OWE MY FAME TO MR. HIKAGE.
WHY DID YOU ACCEPT THAT REQUEST ?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE CRITICIZED FOR THIS EVENTUALLY !
THAT'S NO REASON TO DO THIS!

Renowned Potter Sakaki Bansaku Expelled from the Art Community

COUNTERFEIT SUE WARE VASE

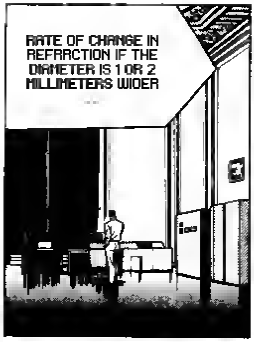
Sakaki Bansaku has been expelled from the art community for acts unbecoming of an artist, by replicating a supposedly missing Sue ware vase (Heian period), passing it off as genuine, and selling it to a certain politician for five hundred million yen.

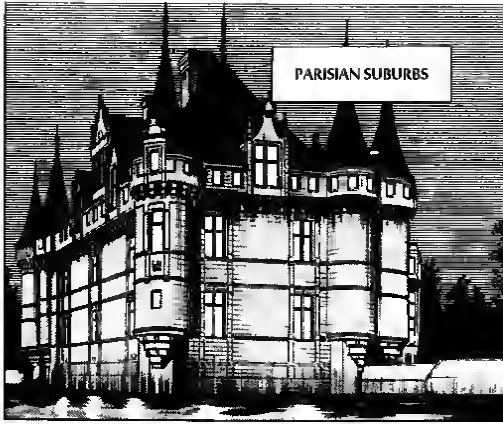
YOU'RE AN UTTER FOOL. DID YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO SELL THAT VASE TO A POLITICIAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ITS TRUE VALUE?
ONLY FIVE HUNDRED MILLION... HE DESERVES A SHAM, AT BEST.
HEHEHEHE... LOOK AT HOW BEAUTIFULLY THE NATURAL GLAZE POURS DOWN FROM THE SHOULDER TO THE BODY.
ISN'T THE ORIGINAL GOR-GEOUS
HOW COULD YOU...
FA-THER!!
AAAA UUUGH!

ARTISTS VALUE THEIR NAME OVER THEIR LIVES ...
FATHER!!

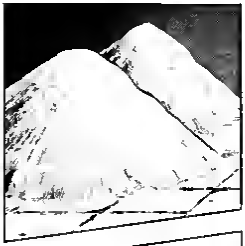
IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD MORE VALUABLE THAN A LIFE !?
ガシャーン

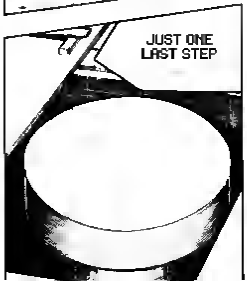
THE VASE OF ORPHEUS AND ZEUS!
AHHH... AHHH HHHH!
AAAAAA UUUUUUGH! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS!?
DO YOU EVEN REALIZE HOW VALUABLE THIS VASE IS!?
AND YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE A COUNTERFEIT WITHOUT THE ORI-GINAL ...!!
YOU SCOURGE !
I'LL CONTACT YOU ONCE IT'S COM-PLETE.
AH! Z-ZERO ...


RATE OF CHANGE IN REFRACTION IF THE DIAMETER IS 1 OR 2 MILLIMETERS WIDER

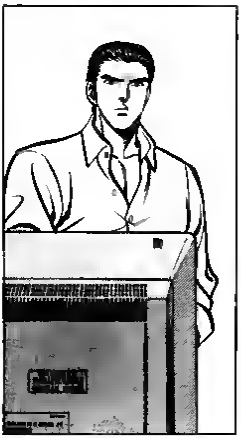

PARISIAN SUBURBS

ANGLES ABC FOR THE TAN, SIN, AND COS IN A COMPARISON BETWEEN THREE TYPES OF RAW MATERIALS USED TO MAKE THE GLASS
CONTRAST FOR THICKNESS OF 1 AND 2 MICRONS

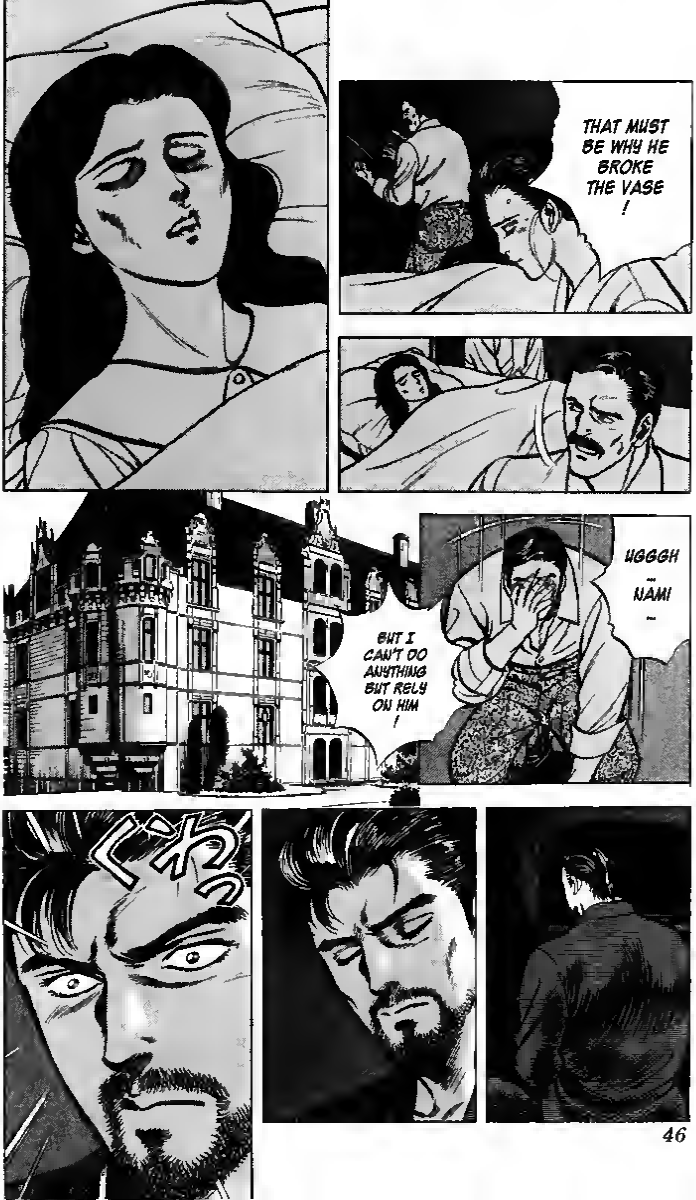



JUST ONE LAST STEP

INSTEAD OF SILICA FROM THE COAST OF LAKE MAGADI IN AFRICA, I'VE FOUND SILICA SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS USED DURING THAT TIME PERIOD



HE'S LATE !!
I SUPPOSE NOT EVEN THIS ZERO COULD SOLVE THIS MYSTERY !
IF HE KEEPS STALLING ANY LONGER, THEN NAMI WON'T EVEN HAVE THREE YEARS... !!


THAT MUST BE WHY HE BROKE THE VASE !
UGGGH ... NAMI ...
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT RELY ON HIM !
くわっ

MUSEUM OF PARIS
NOO-OOOO!
AIII EEE EEE EE!
NAMI, COME WITH US!
NAMI, PLEASE! LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER!
OHHH! THAT'S ...!!

BUT STILL ...
ITS STYLE IS SUGGESTIVE OF THE TIME PERIOD, ITS TINT IS REFINED... IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE ORIGINAL!
AND THEY WERE ALL EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS VASE IN SHAPE
WHEN THIS VASE WAS FIRST STOLEN FROM THE MUSEUM OF PARIS, WE HAD SEVERAL TALENTED GLASS-WORKERS MAKE REPLICATES,
AHHH!
I DOUBT THIS ONE WILL, EITHER
BUT NONE OF THEM COULD SHOW VISIONS OF THE FUTURE
YOUNG LADY, IT'S TIME TO FACE THE TRUTH!

LET'S BEGIN.
NOO-OOOO!
GO AHEAD, YOUNG LADY.
YOUR MOTHER'S HERE WITH YOU!
NAM!

AIIIIIII
EEEEEE
EEEEEE
EEEEE!
!?

I STARTED OFF BY SHOWING YOUR DAUGHTER THE SAME IMAGE SHE SAW IN EGYPT THE IMAGE OF THE FUTURE
AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE APPEARED OLD AGAIN
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS ...?
AND YOU USED MY DAUGHTER TO CONFIRM THAT !?
NOW, LET'S GET TO THAT TRUTH, SHALL WE ?
YOUR DAUGHTER WILL NEVER HEAL UNTIL SHE FACES THE TRUTH !

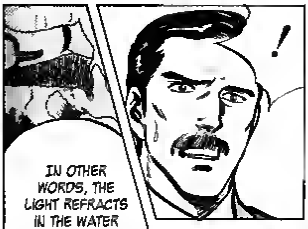
STOP !!

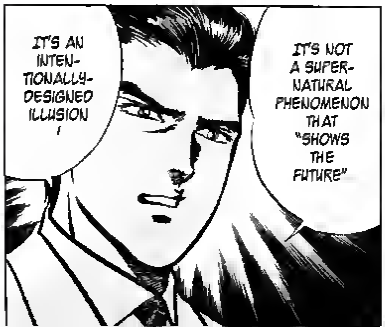
EEE EK...
YOUNG LADY, WILL YOU LOOK INSIDE AGAIN ?

AND THE "KAN-NYUU"* TECHNIQUE IN JAPANESE CERAMICS CAUSES THE POTTERY TO DISTORT THAT LIGHT AND CHANGE THE IMAGE OF YOUR FACE.
WHEN YOUR FACE IS REFLECTED IN WATER, THINK OF IT AS LIGHT EMANATING FROM EVERY CONSTITUENT PART OF YOUR FACE ONTO THE WATER.

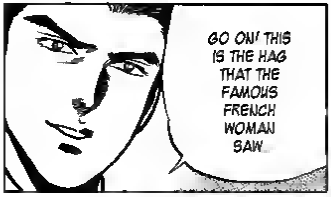
*CRACKING

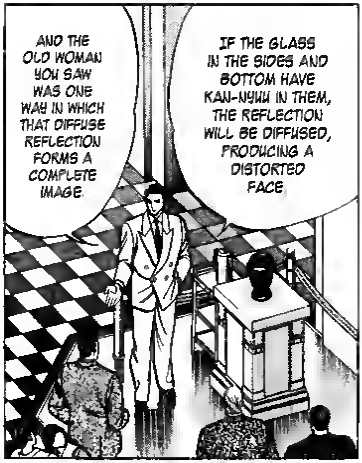
YOU MEAN THAT VASE ..?
THAT REFLECTION IS PROJECTED ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER


!
IN OTHER WORDS, THE LIGHT REFRACTS IN THE WATER AND IS REFLECTED FROM THE INSIDE OF THE VASE.


IT'S AN INTEN-TIONALLY-DESIGNED ILLUSION !
IT'S NOT A SUPER-NATURAL PHENOMENON THAT "SHOWS THE FUTURE"

NEXT IS THE HAG.


GO ON! THIS IS THE HAG THAT THE FAMOUS FRENCH WOMAN SAW.


AND THE OLD WOMAN YOU SAW WAS ONE WAY IN WHICH THAT DIFFUSE REFLECTION FORMS A COMPLETE IMAGE.
IF THE GLASS IN THE SIDES AND BOTTOM HAVE KAN-NYUU IN THEM, THE REFLECTION WILL BE DIFFUSED, PRODUCING A DISTORTED FACE.

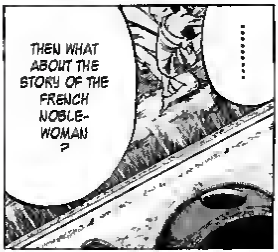
URK!

ゼロ1

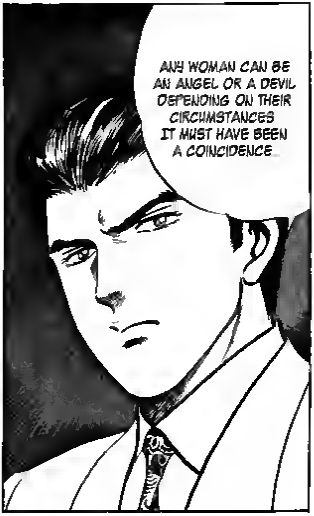
NAMI ...
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!
MAMA!
AND THE TOP IS MADE FROM A WELL-ROUNDED MATERIAL WITH A GOOD SPREAD
THE MIDDLE IS MADE FROM MATERIAL THAT PRODUCES SHARP VERTICAL KAN-KYUU,
THE KAN-KYUU IN THE INNER WALLS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS
THE IMAGE IS AN OLD LADY WHEN ALMOST EMPTY, A HAG WHEN HALF-FULL, AND A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN AT EIGHT-TENTHS FULL...
THEIR RATES OF REFRACTION AND CONTRAST BALANCE WERE ABLE TO PRODUCE THESE THREE MYSTERIOUS FACES
THE BOTTOM THIRD IS MADE FROM MATERIAL THAT EASILY PRODUCES THIN KAN-KYUU HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY ..

AND STARTED USING IT TO MAKE A PROFIT..
BUT SHE FOUND OUT THIS TRICK AS SHE USED IT

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GOT HER HANDS ON A VASE THAT VANISHED FROM THE MUSEUM OF PARIS SEVEN YEARS AGO
SO THE OLD WOMAN IN CAIRO KNEW ABOUT THIS ..


THEN WHAT ABOUT THE STORY OF THE FRENCH NOBLE-WOMAN ?
.....

RICH JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE DESPISED BY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD THESE DAYS
BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOW MY DAUGHTER AN IMAGE OF HER AS AN OLD WOMAN ...


ANY WOMAN CAN BE AN ANGEL OR A DEVIL DEPENDING ON THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES IT MUST HAVE BEEN A COINCIDENCE..

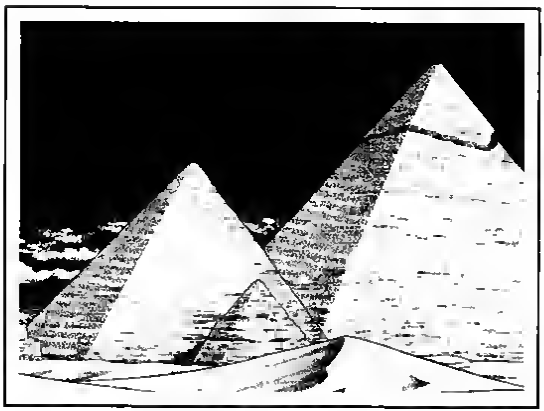
..ZERO, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU..?

T-TWO BILLION !?
PLEASE DEPOSIT THAT AMOUNT INTO THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS
IS YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE WORTH THAT LITTLE TO YOU...?
T-THIS IS PREPOS-TEROUS...!!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE.
I'LL REPAY YOU, EVEN IF I HAVE TO SELL MY BUSINESS AND ALL MY ASSETS.
N-NO. YOU'VE GIVEN MY DAUGHTER ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS OF LIFE.
EVERY TIME ZERO MAKES A COUNTERFEIT, HE ALWAYS LOOKS FOR THE SAME MATERIALS FROM THE SAME YEAR AS THOSE THAT WERE USED AT THE TIME.
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE THIS PERFECT ...

IT WAS FOR YOUR DAUGHTER... THIS PROVES THAT HE'S HUMAN, AFTER ALL
THEN WHY'D HE CHARGE ME TWO BILLION..? THAT'S HALF OF THAT
YET HE FOUND IT IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THAT MUST COST A FORTUNE IN LABOR... THREE BILLION... NO, FOUR BILLION ...
WE HIRED FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE A DAY FOR SIX MONTHS TO LOOK FOR THE RIGHT SOIL, AND ENDED UP WASTING A BILLION WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT...
THIS MEANS THAT DESPITE BEING BY A DIFFERENT ARTIST, THIS IS THE ORIGINAL VASE!!
HE WOULD HAVE TO PUT HIMSELF IN THE SAME MENTAL STATE AS THE ARTIST TO CREATE THIS!
BUT HE CALCULATED EVERYTHING FROM THE ARTIST'S PERSONALITY, TECHNICAL SKILL, AND EVEN SOUL!
YES...
AHH... SO THE REASON HE BROKE THE VASE...
HE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE OF THEM IN THE WORLD...

ZERO...
AS LONG AS HE EXISTS, THE WORDS "ONLY ONE" NO LONGER HAVE ANY MEANING
...



JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 1
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

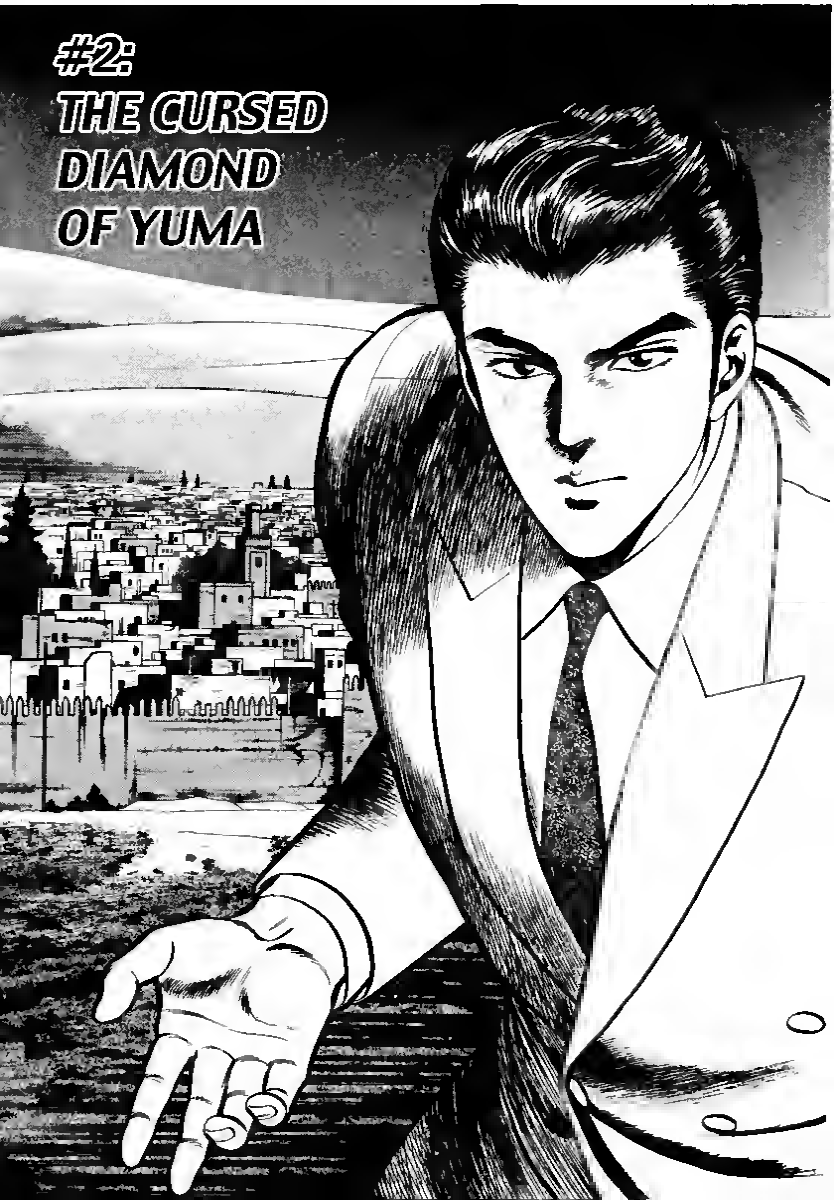
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING

EDITING BY
LUKESKYWALKER

QC BY
KAZUHIKO

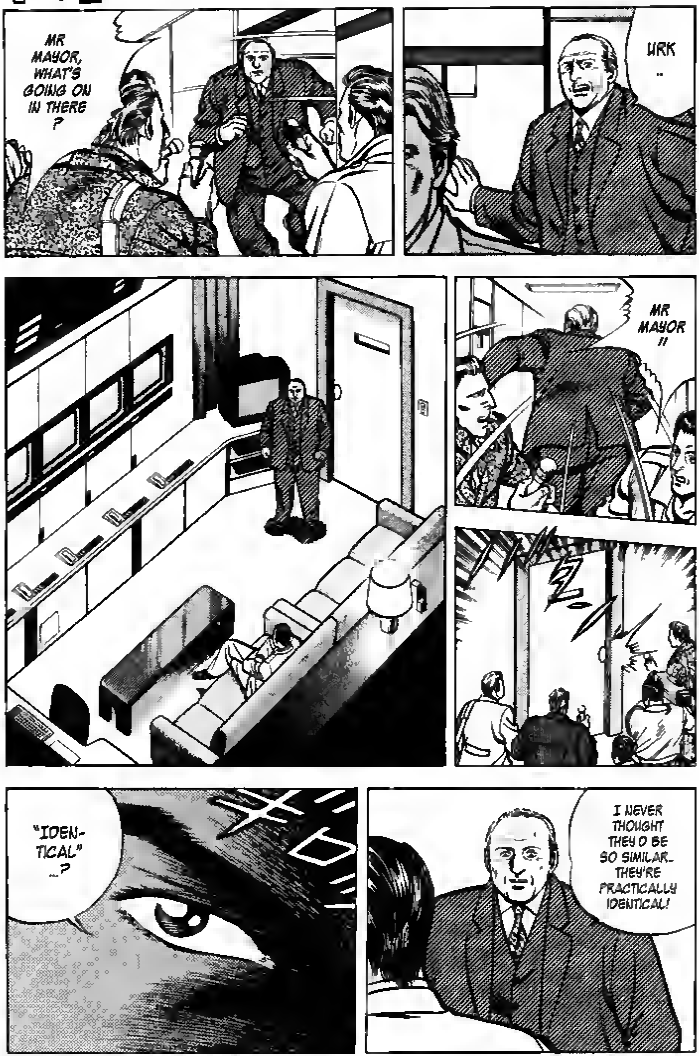
SUPER JUMP COMICS


#2:
THE CURSED
DIAMOND
OF YUMA

A JUMBO JET CRASHED AND EXPLODED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE LANDING AT AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS.
IT APPEARED THAT ALL 272 PASSENGERS AND CREW MEMBERS HAD DIED BUT MIRACULOUSLY, ONE SURVIVED ...
BUT IN THREE OR FOUR HOURS, IT WAS ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT THE WORLD WOULD HEAR THE NEWS THAT ALL THE PASSENGERS HAD DIED
L'HOPITAL
MOMMY ... DADDY ...

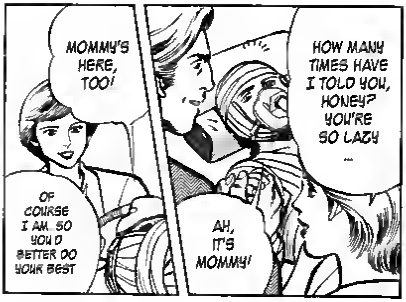
WE DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT COSTS! JUST PLEASE PLEASE SAVE JOHN!!
THE BOY'S PARENTS ARE ABOUT TO BOARD A SPECIAL FLIGHT TO PARIS!
ACCORDING TO THIS SATELLITE FEED SENT FROM NEW YORK...
MR MAYOR, CAN YOU GIVE US A COMMENT?
H M M

YES, WELL... HIS PARENTS ARE STILL IN AMERICA. THEIR SPECIAL FLIGHT SHOULD BE ON ITS WAY HERE BY NOW..
AND HE NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF HIS PARENTS.
WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN DO. THE REST IS UP TO HIM NOW.
CAN YOU SAVE HIM!?
THEN THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT -


MR MAYOR, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE ?
URK ..
MR MAYOR !!
"IDEN-TICAL" ...?
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D BE SO SIMILAR.. THEY'RE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL!

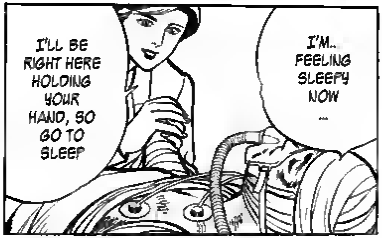
"IDENTICAL" IS THE WORD YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE A FORGERY.
AND MY JOB IS NOT TO MAKE FORGERIES!
YOU MEAN ...
THE BOY WOULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH A FORGERY
DADDY ... IT HURTS
BUT CAN HE ACTUALLY MAKE TWO ACTORS INTO "ORIGINALS" RIGHT DOWN TO THEIR PERSONALITIES IN SUCH SHORT ORDER..?
HANG IN THERE, JOHN!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

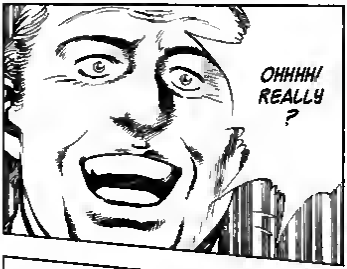
!?
YES, IT'S ME, JOHN!
AHHH! IT'S DADDY!
IT'S REALLY YOU, DADDY!
THAT SCAR ON YOUR HAND... THAT'S THE ONE YOU GOT FROM BREAKING A WINDOW WHEN YOU WERE PLAYING KARATE AS A KID, RIGHT?
DADDY, YOU'RE STILL GROWING OUT THIS NAIL.
DOESN'T MOMMY KEEP TELLING YOU THAT'S DIRTY?
HUH? OH, YES RIGHT
THAT'S RIGHT

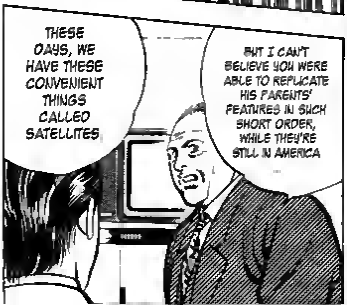

MOMMY'S HERE, TOO!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU, HONEY? YOU'RE SO LAZY ...
OF COURSE I AM. SO YOU'D BETTER DO YOUR BEST
AH, IT'S MOMMY!

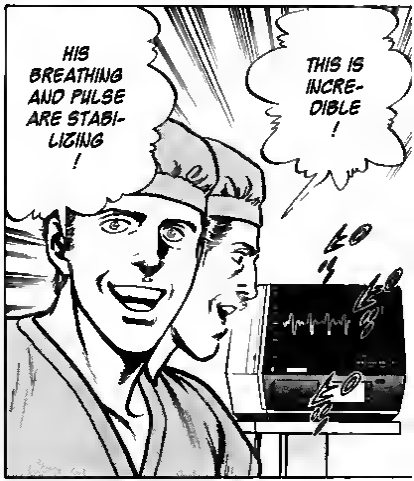
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING IN HIS FILE ABOUT THE NAIL ON HIS LITTLE FINGER...

O
KAY


I'LL BE RIGHT HERE HOLDING YOUR HAND, SO GO TO SLEEP
I'M.. FEELING SLEEPY NOW ...

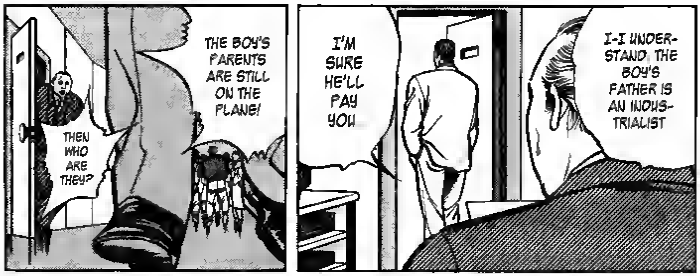

OHHHH! REALLY ?


THESE DAYS, WE HAVE THESE CONVENIENT THINGS CALLED SATELLITES
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE ABLE TO REPLICATE HIS PARENTS' FEATURES IN SUCH SHORT ORDER, WHILE THEY'RE STILL IN AMERICA


HIS BREATHING AND PULSE ARE STABILIZING !
THIS IS INCREDIBLE !

F-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS !?*
PLEASE DEPOSIT THAT AMOUNT INTO THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS
YOU FIGURED OUT ALL THIS FROM JUST THAT?
I WAS ABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING FROM THAT TV BROAD-CAST

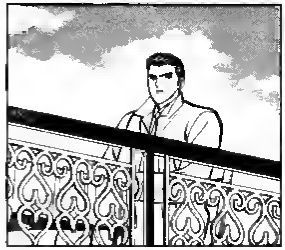
*(APPROX $60 MILLION YEN)

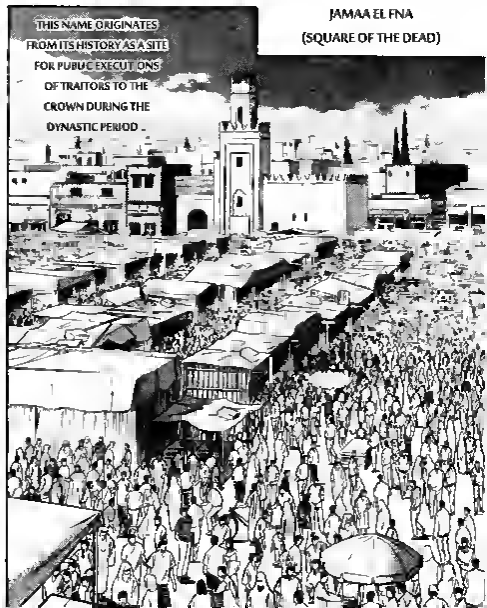

THEN WHO ARE THEY?
THE BOY'S PARENTS ARE STILL ON THE PLANE!
I'M SURE HE'LL PAY YOU
I-I UNDER-STAND THE BOY'S FATHER IS AN INDUS-TRIALIST

NORTH AFRICA
MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

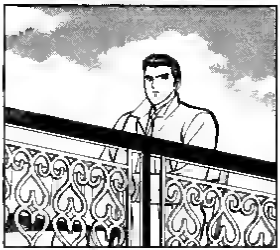
THANK YOU
HAVE SOME MOROCCAN TEA

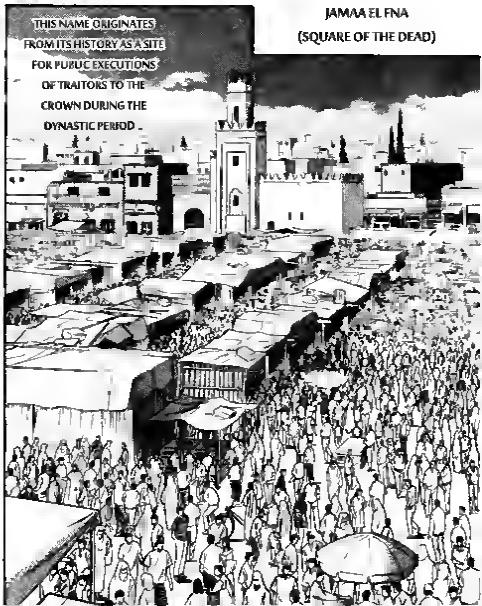
?
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN MOROCCO ?




THIS NAME ORIGINATES FROM ITS HISTORY AS A SITE FOR PUBLIC EXECUTIONS OF TRAITORS TO THE CROWN DURING THE DYNASTIC PERIOD .
JAMAA EL FNA
(SQUARE OF THE DEAD)

NORTH AFRICA
MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

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JAMAA EL FNA
(SQUARE OF THE DEAD)

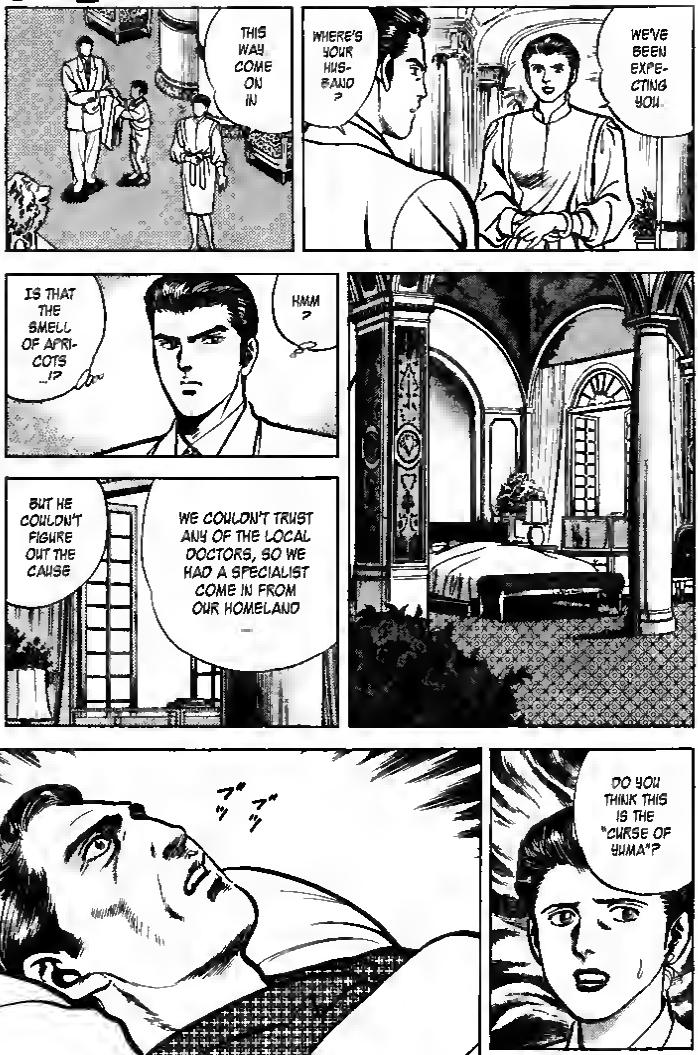
THANK YOU
HAVE SOME MOROCCAN TEA

?
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN MOROCCO ?

MOROCCAN TEA IS MADE BY FILLING THE TEACUP WITH MINT LEAVES, FILLING IT WITH SUGAR ON TOP OF THAT, AND FINALLY POURING TEA INTO IT.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
WELL...
THEN, THE TEA WILL START TO ATTRACT THE HONEY BEES, WHICH WILL FROLIC IN THE TEA...
.....
THEN SIP UP THE BEES ALONG WITH THE TEA, AND BITE DOWN ON THEM.
YOU WAIT UNTIL THE BEES HAVE FINISHED DRINKING THE SUGAR WATER,
THAT'S HOW YOU DRINK MORO-CCAN TEA.
THIS BITTER-SWEET TASTE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DES-CRIBE

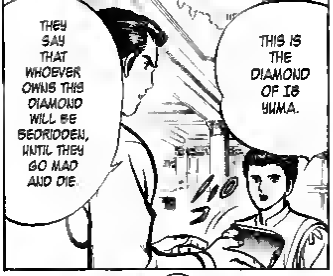
I'M WAITING FOR A PORTUGUESE MAN NAMED MERSCH BOIRET
I AM WAITING FOR SOMEONE HERE, YES, BUT NOT A MOROCCAN LIKE YOU
BY THE WAY, I'M LOOKING FOR AN ORIENTAL MAN WOULD THAT HAPPEN TO BE YOU !?
I'M AFRAID THAT DOESN'T SUIT MY TASTES
AND WHO ARE YOU?
MR BOIRET IS ANXIOUSLY EXPECTING YOU!
!?
OHHH! SO YOU'RE MR ZERO !
BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME OLD ALI
I'M HIS BUTLER, LOOD ALI SHTAMI
UH... VERY WELL
TAKE ME TO HIM, OLD ALI

POOR FOLK LIKE ME COULD NEVER LIVE SOMEWHERE HIGH LIKE THIS
FWA-FWA-FWAAAH !
YES! THE MASTER IS VERY RICH, YOU SEE
THIS IS QUITE A WAYS UPHILL
'COURSE I GOT IT GOOD. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE DOWN IN THE CITY WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO GET BY
IT'S THAT WHITE MANSION RIGHT THERE.
HE'S SERVING HERE AT THE MANSION WITH ME
THAT'S MY GRANDSON
OKAY !
CHICO, CALL THE MISSUS. MR ZERO IS HERE

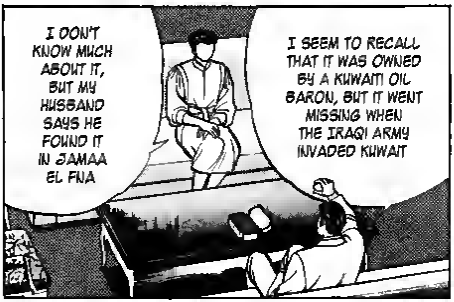

THIS WAY COME ON IN
WHERE'S YOUR HUSBAND?
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
IS THAT THE SMELL OF APRICOTS...!?
HMM?
BUT HE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THE CAUSE
WE COULDN'T TRUST ANY OF THE LOCAL DOCTORS, SO WE HAD A SPECIALIST COME IN FROM OUR HOMELAND
ブッ ブッ
DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE "CURSE OF YUMA"?

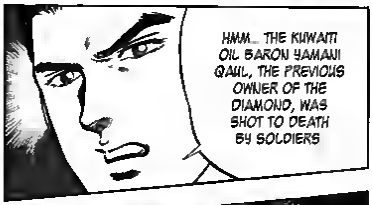
YES, DEAR I'LL BRING IT FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY.
THANK YOU, CHICO
EVEN IN HIS CONDITION, MY HUSBAND JUST CAN'T STOP DRINKING MOROCCAN TEA

OH, SO THIS IS THE LARGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD

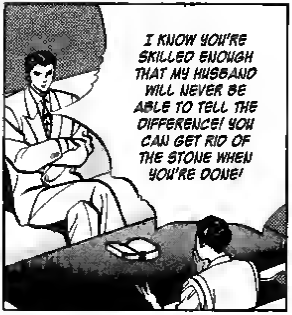

THEY SAY THAT WHOEVER OWNS THIS DIAMOND WILL BE BEDRIDDEN, UNTIL THEY GO MAD AND DIE.
THIS IS THE DIAMOND OF IS YUMA.

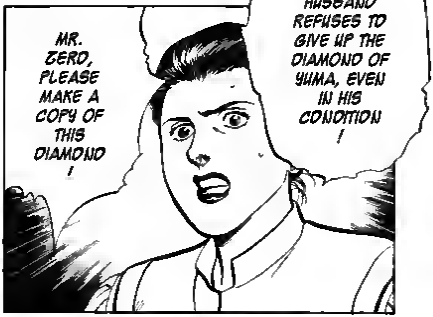
THAT WAS THE DAY MY HUSBAND SUDDENLY FELL ILL.


I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT MY HUSBAND SAYS HE FOUND IT IN JAMAA EL FNA
I SEEM TO RECALL THAT IT WAS OWNED BY A KUWAITI OIL BARON, BUT IT WENT MISSING WHEN THE IRAQI ARMY INVADED KUWAIT

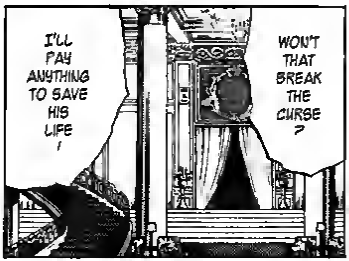

HMM... THE KUWAITI OIL BARON YAMAJI QAIL, THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF THE DIAMOND, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY SOLDIERS

IS THIS REALLY THE CURSED DIAMOND OF YUMA? AND WILL ITS OWNER REALLY GO MAD AND DIE?

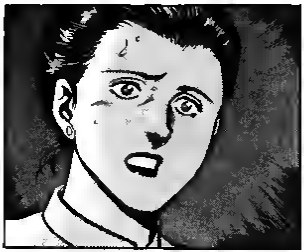

I KNOW YOU'RE SKILLED ENOUGH THAT MY HUSBAND WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE! YOU CAN GET RID OF THE STONE WHEN YOU'RE DONE!


MR. ZERO, PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS DIAMOND!
MY HUSBAND REFUSES TO GIVE UP THE DIAMOND OF YUMA, EVEN IN HIS CONDITION!

I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THE CURSE WILL BE BROKEN.
IF I MAY MAKE THIS CLEAR, EVERYTHING I MAKE IS THE ORI-GINAL


I'LL PAY ANYTHING TO SAVE HIS LIFE!
WON'T THAT BREAK THE CURSE?

PLEASE DO!
DO YOU MIND IF I KEEP THIS STONE FOR A WHILE?



TAKE ME TO CASA-BLANCA
VERY GOOD, SIR
IT'S A RIOT, MR. ZERO! LOOK OUT!
WAHH-AAH!

GU' GU'...

WE'VE BEEN SEEING MORE AND MORE OF THESE ATTACKS THESE DAYS

K... KC-CCH...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MR. ZERO!?
DID THEY STEAL ANYTHING!?

THEY TOOK THE DIAMOND OF YUMA... SO THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE AFTER...

THAT WASN'T A SIMPLE RIOT...
THAT WAS THE BLOOD-THIRSTY RAGE OF THE OPPRESSED TOWARDS THE OPPRESSORS...

THIS MEANS THAT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO HAVE THE STONE AND THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE REASON...!
BUT ONLY A SELECT FEW PEOPLE KNEW THAT THE DIAMOND WAS IN MY POSSESSION...

SHOULD I HAIL A TAXI, MR ZERO ...?

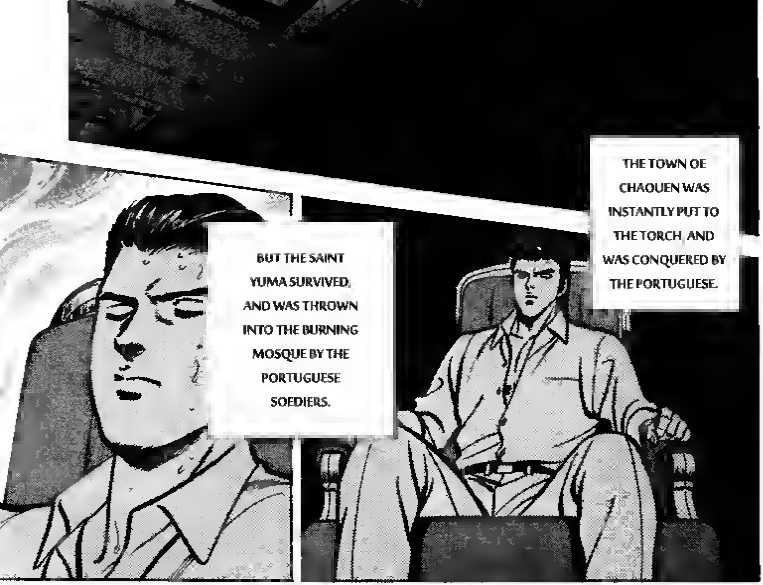
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEIR PLAN HAS FAILED

BECAUSE I MIGHT REVEAL THE MYSTERY OF THE DIAMOND !

YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME INSTEAD OF STEALING THE DIAMOND !
ONCE I TAKE A SINGLE LOOK AT SOMETHING, IT NEVER LEAVES MY MIND!

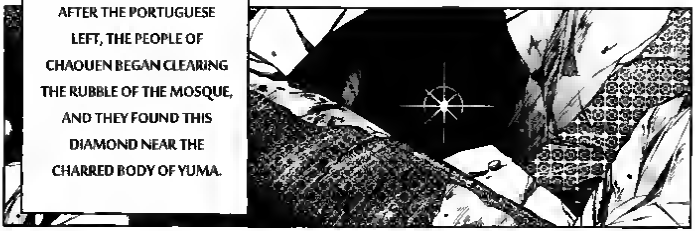
SWISS ALPS
AT THE FOOT OE THE RIEAND ATLAS MOUNTAINS IN NORTHERN MOROCCO, THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL RURAL TOWN CALLED CHAOUEN.
THE CURSED DIAMOND OF YUMA

THE TOWN OF CHAOUEN WAS FOUNDED IN 1471 BY A SAINT NAMED IB YUMA, TO PROTECT AGAINST THE INVASION OE THE AVARICIOUS PORTUGUESE ARMY.
THAT SAME YEAR, THE PORTUGUESE OCCUPIED THE CITY OF TANGIER, ON THE STRAIT OE GIBRALTAR, AND PRESSED ON 150KM TO CHAOUEN


THE TOWN OF CHAOUEN WAS INSTANTLY PUT TO THE TORCH, AND WAS CONQUERED BY THE PORTUGUESE.
BUT THE SAINT YUMA SURVIVED, AND WAS THROWN INTO THE BURNING MOSQUE BY THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS.

IT IS SAID THAT IT WAS LIKE SEEING HELL ITSELF.

AFTER THE PORTUGUESE LEFT, THE PEOPLE OF CHAOUEN BEGAN CLEARING THE RUBBLE OF THE MOSQUE, AND THEY FOUND THIS DIAMOND NEAR THE CHARRED BODY OF YUMA.

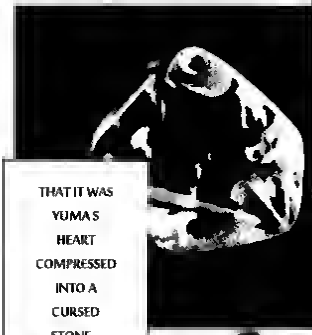


HE MAY HAVE FOUND THIS DIAMOND ON HIS TRAVELS AND KEPT IT HIDDEN IN HIS POCKET AS A CHARM OF PROTECTION... THAT'S THE COMMON THEORY

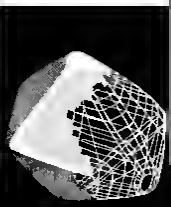
IB YUMA HAD GONE ON A PILGRIMAGE ALL THROUGHOUT MOROCCO BEFORE BECOMING A SAINT.

OBTUSE ANGLE OF 123°38' CUT NORTH-NORTHEAST...

CUT DIRECTION FROM POINT A IS A STRAIGHT LINE 1.2CM LONG...



THEY BELIEVED THIS WAS A STONE CREATED BY IB YUMA'S SPITE.

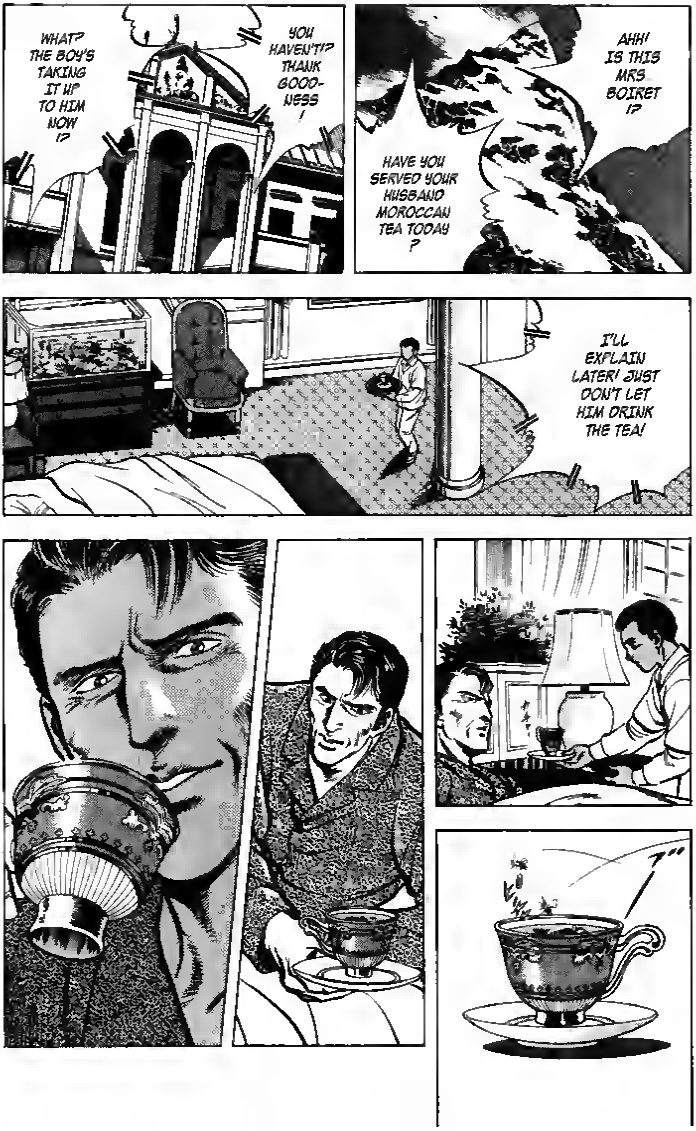


BUT THE PEOPLE OF CHAOUEN HAD A DIFFERENT OPINION

THAT IT WAS YUMA'S HEART COMPRESSED INTO A CURSED STONE.

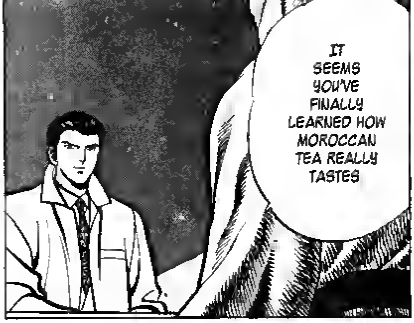
LITHIUM CONTENT ...

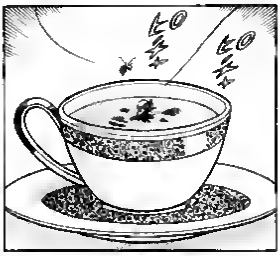
ゼロ1
THE PORTUGUESE CONQUERED CHAOUEN ON FEBRUARY 10TH, 1471 !
THAT'S 520 YEARS AGO, TODAY!
THAT'S IT !
AND MAKE IT QUICK, OR SOME-ONE'S GOING TO DIE!!
PUT ME THROUGH TO MARRA-KESH, MORO-CCO !
DAMN IT ALL !


WHAT? THE BOY'S TAKING IT UP TO HIM NOW !?
YOU HAVEN'T!? THANK GOOD-NESS !
AHH! IS THIS MRS. BOIRET !?
HAVE YOU SERVED YOUR HUSBAND MOROCCAN TEA TODAY ?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! JUST DON'T LET HIM DRINK THE TEA!
T''

WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
DEAR !!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
THIS IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ORDI-NARY MORO-CCAN TEA.

*A FORTRESS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. CURRENTLY A TOURIST SITE


IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW MOROCCAN TEA REALLY TASTES



I'M AFRAID NOT
IT'S THE DAY THAT THE PORTUGUESE CONQUERED CHAOUEN, AND THE SAINT IB YAMA WAS BURNED TO DEATH

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TODAY... FEBRUARY 10TH IS ?

OH ...
I'VE LOOKED INTO ALL THE VICTIMS' BACK-GROUNDS, AND IT TURNS OUT THEY ARE ALL DES-CENDED FROM PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS DURING THEIR COLONIAL EXPANSION

AND FOR SOME REASON, A PORTUGUESE PERSON DIES OF MYSTERIOUS CAUSES EVERY FEBRUARY 10TH.

YOU KNOW THAT THE FAMOUS "CURSED DIAMOND OF YUMA" WENT MISSING LAST YEAR, WHEN IRAQ INVADED KUWAIT, DON'T YOU?
NO I'M AFRAID I DON'T READ THE NEWS
THIS IS SOUNDING LIKE A PUZZLE
LET'S SAY THIS IS THE CURSED STONE OF YUMA
HMM... WELL, LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT...
MR MERSCH BOIRET FOUND THIS IN THE MARKET OF DJAMAA EL FNA
MR BOIRET WAS SURPRISED BY IT, AND WANTED IT
HE KNEW ABOUT THE CURSE, BUT LIKE ANY MODERN PERSON, HE LOGICALLY ASSUMED THAT THE DEATHS WERE A STRING OF COINCI-DENCES
THE DIAMOND OF YUMA FELL INTO MR BOIRET'S HANDS ...
THIS WAS A LUCKY COINCIDENCE FOR MR BOIRET.
HOW-EVER ..

BUT WHY WOULD THEY LAY A TRAP FOR THE MASTER ?
THEN MR BOIRET WALKED RIGHT INTO IT.
IF IT ACTUALLY TURNED OUT TO BE A TRAP,
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PORTUGUESE HERE IN MOROCCO
BECAUSE HE'S PORTUGUESE
BUT HIS ANCESTORS WERE ONCE SOLDIERS DURING COLONIZATION. THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY OF THEM!
EVEN THOUGH MOROCCO IS CURRENTLY AN INDEPENDENT NATION, THEY ARE STILL EXPLOITING YOUR BLOOD AND SWEAT, WHILE THEY REST IN THEIR WHITE MANSION ON TOP OF A HILL
AND THERE'S MORE

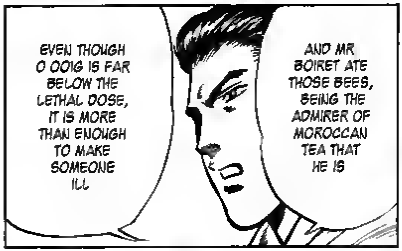
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE WE SEND PEOPLE TO SPACE...
AS IF THE CURSE OF YUMA WAS TRUE
THE CURSE BEGAN ON THE NIGHT MR. BOIRET FOUND THE DIAMOND,
YET THERE ARE STILL MANY UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES IN THE WORLD.
OH, I CAN EXPLAIN IT, IN MR. BOIRET'S CASE.

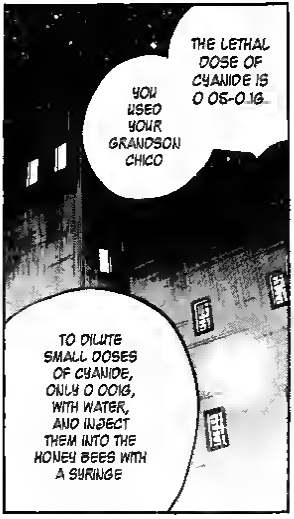
!!
OH? WHY IS SOMEONE AS FAMILIAR WITH THE TRUE TASTE OF MOROCCAN TEA AS YOU ARE SHOOING THE BEES AWAY?
CHI-CO!
HAH HAH AHA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?
WELL, YOU SEE, I STILL CAN'T SEEM TO STOMACH BEES
SO WHILE YOU WERE LOOKING AT THE WALLS,
I SWAPPED MY TEA FOR YOURS, WHICH DOESN'T HAVE ANY BEES IN IT.

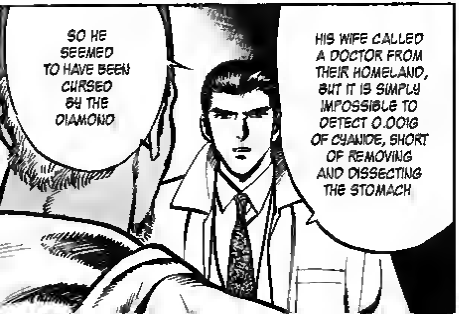
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DRINK IT?
IT'S GOT PLENTY OF YOUR FAVORITE BEES INSIDE
NOW, DRINK UP BEFORE IT GETS COLD
SO WHY DON'T YOU DRINK IT!?

WHEN I FIRST ENTERED MR. BOIRET'S BEDROOM, I SMELLED APRICOTS.

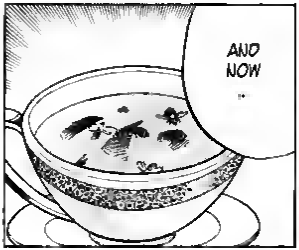
BUT THE HUMAN BODY GIVES OFF AN ODOR SIMILAR TO APRICOTS AFTER AN ACCUMULATION OF CYANIDE.
I BARELY GAVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT AT THE TIME,

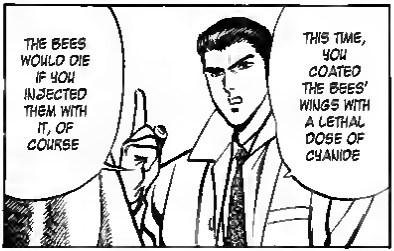

EVEN THOUGH 0.001G IS FAR BELOW THE LETHAL DOSE, IT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE SOMEONE ILL
AND MR. BOIRET ATE THOSE BEES, BEING THE ADMIRER OF MOROCCAN TEA THAT HE IS


THE LETHAL DOSE OF CYANIDE IS 0.05-0.1G.
YOU USED YOUR GRANDSON CHICO
TO DILUTE SMALL DOSES OF CYANIDE, ONLY 0.001G, WITH WATER, AND INJECT THEM INTO THE HONEY BEES WITH A SYRINGE

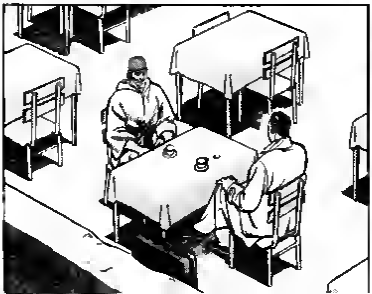

SO HE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CURSED BY THE DIAMOND
HIS WIFE CALLED A DOCTOR FROM THEIR HOMELAND, BUT IT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT 0.001G OF CYANIDE, SHORT OF REMOVING AND DISSECTING THE STOMACH

AND FEBRUARY 10TH WAS THE DAY YOU WOULD KILL MR. BOIRET


AND NOW ..


THE BEES WOULD DIE IF YOU INJECTED THEM WITH IT, OF COURSE
THIS TIME, YOU COATED THE BEES' WINGS WITH A LETHAL DOSE OF CYANIDE

YOU HAD CHICO HIDE BEHIND THAT WALL, SENDING THE BEES TOWARDS ME



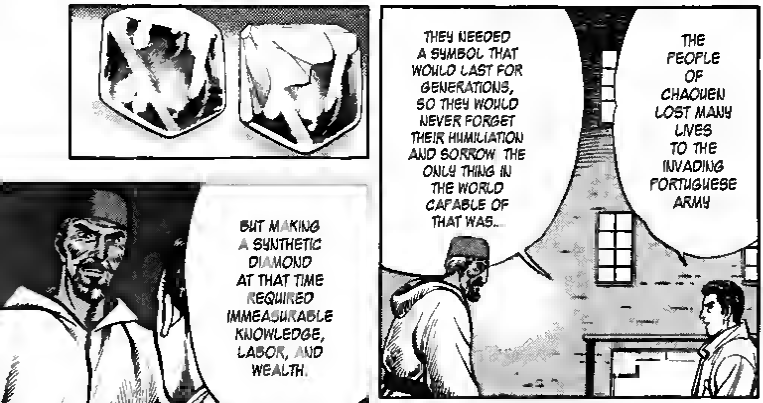
YOU REALIZED THAT I WAS PROBABLY CALLING YOU HERE BECAUSE I HAD FOUND SOMETHING, SO YOU DECIDED TO KILL ME

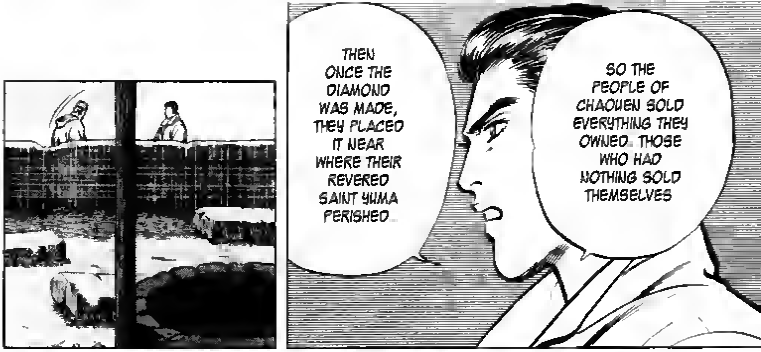
THIS TOLD ME EVERY-THING
フン
HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME ?
フン
SO YOU HAD THE STONE MRS BOIRET GAVE ME ALL ALONG... !
IT'S EASY ENOUGH FOR ME
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS SOMETHING YOU'VE ONLY SEEN ONCE...?

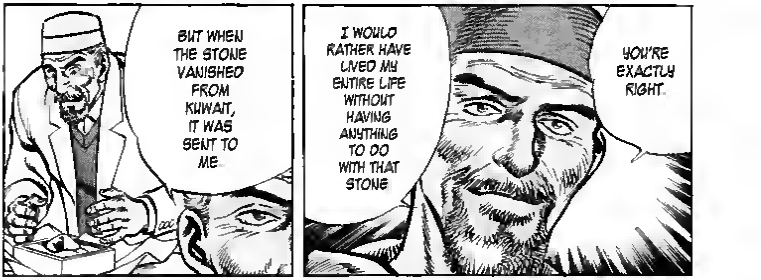
YOU'LL GET THE SAME RESULTS, NO MATTER WHICH ONE YOU USE
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP THERE'S STILL THE ORIGINAL THAT I MADE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
CARE TO TOUCH IT?

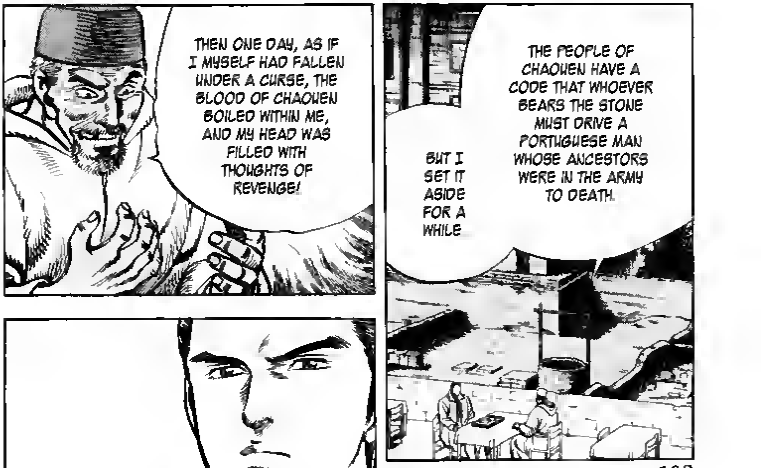
*A SYNTHETIC DIAMOND MADE FROM PLACING POWDER OF PARAFFIN, ALCOHOL, AND LITHIUM IN A STEEL TUBE, THEN SEALING AND HEATING THE TUBE. NAMED AFTER THE BRITISH SCIENTIST HANNAY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE "CURSED DIAMOND" WAS CREATED BY YOUR ANCESTORS, THE PEOPLE OF CHAOWEN
EVEN THE LEGEND THAT IT WAS FOUND WHERE YUMA BURNED TO DEATH IS FALSE


THE PEOPLE OF CHAOWEN LOST MANY LIVES TO THE INVADING PORTUGUESE ARMY
THEY NEEDED A SYMBOL THAT WOULD LAST FOR GENERATIONS, SO THEY WOULD NEVER FORGET THEIR HUMILIATION AND SORROW. THE ONLY THING IN THE WORLD CAPABLE OF THAT WAS...
BUT MAKING A SYNTHETIC DIAMOND AT THAT TIME REQUIRED IMMEASURABLE KNOWLEDGE, LABOR, AND WEALTH.


THEN ONCE THE DIAMOND WAS MADE, THEY PLACED IT NEAR WHERE THEIR REVERED SAINT YUMA PERISHED...
SO THE PEOPLE OF CHAOWEN SOLD EVERYTHING THEY OWNED. THOSE WHO HAD NOTHING SOLD THEMSELVES


BUT WHEN THE STONE VANISHED FROM KUWAIT, IT WAS SENT TO ME...
I WOULD RATHER HAVE LIVED MY ENTIRE LIFE WITHOUT HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT STONE
YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.


THEN ONE DAY, AS IF I MYSELF HAD FALLEN UNDER A CURSE, THE BLOOD OF CHAOWEN BOILED WITHIN ME, AND MY HEAD WAS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF REVENGE!
BUT I SET IT ASIDE FOR A WHILE...
THE PEOPLE OF CHAOWEN HAVE A CODE THAT WHOEVER BEARS THE STONE MUST DRIVE A PORTUGUESE MAN WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE IN THE ARMY TO DEATH.

THOSE WHO FAIL IN THEIR ASSAS-SINATION MUST END THEIR OWN LIFE!
THERE IS MORE TO THE CODE

CHI-
CO
!

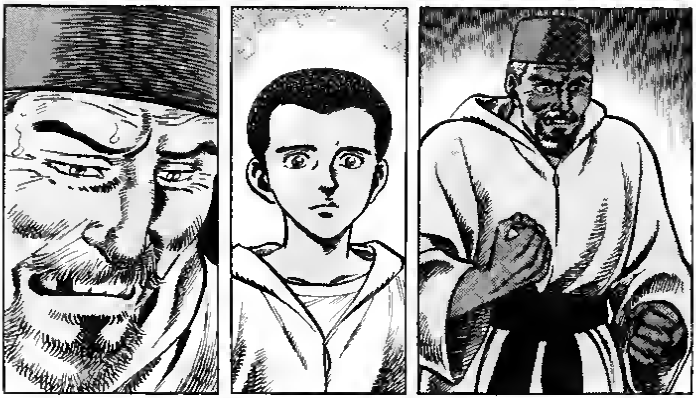
THIS IS A MATTER OF THE BLOODLINE OF CHAOWEN !!

WHY... WHY DIDN'T YOU POISON IT!?

IT WAS CHICO HIMSELF WHO MADE THE DECISION
I SPOKE TO CHICO BEFORE I MET YOU, BUT I NEVER TOLD HIM NOT TO POISON ANYTHING

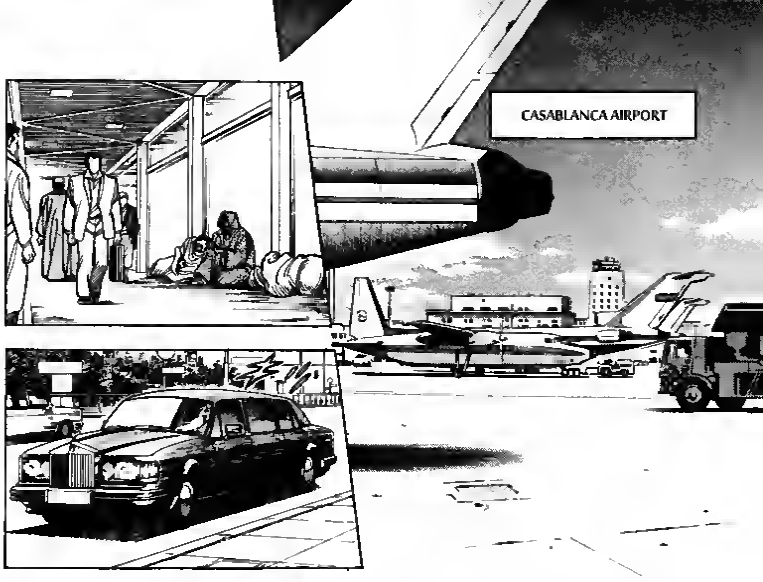
THAT NOT ONLY YUMA, BUT THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF CHAOWEN, WERE THROWN INTO THE FIRE
WHEN I MET CHICO, I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT FEBRUARY 10TH,
!?
I THINK THAT'S EXACTLY THE REASON HE MADE HIS CHOICE, AS PART OF THE GENERATION THAT WILL INHERIT THE BLOODLINE OF CHAOWEN.
WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE LIVE TODAY, AND HOW WE LIVE FOR TOMORROW
BUT WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT IS NOT OUR TIES TO THE PAST, IT'S THE VALUE OF EACH LIFE
AND I TOLD HIM THAT ALL COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH ATROCITIES IN THE NAME OF WAR
THAT'S ALL I TOLD CHICO.

YOU WOULD STAIN THEIR BRIGHT FUTURE WITH BLOOD !?
YOU STILL DARE BURDEN CHICO'S GENERATION WITH THE STONE!?



IT WAS CHICO'S WILL NOT TO POISON THE BEES !

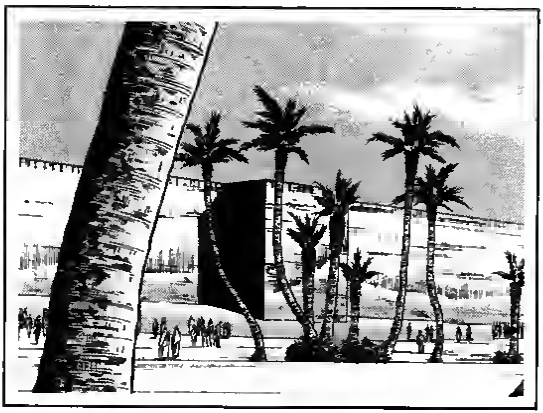
GRAND-FATHER !
I'M SO SORRY !
CHI.. CO . I'M SORRY.


CASABLANCA AIRPORT

CAN YOU SPARE SOME CHANGE, MASTER FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE HILL?
GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF OF ME!
DEAR, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO GET RID OF THEM ALL ?
I CAN'T EVEN STAND TO BREATHE THE SAME AIR AS THEM!

WE'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK, JUST AS WE PROMISED
YOU HAVE MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
!
PLEASE DEPOSIT THAT AMOUNT INTO THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS
H-HOW DARE YOU !
THAT'S THE PRICE I'VE PUT ON YOUR LIFE IS THAT TOO HIGH ?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS !?

IF YOU THINK YOUR LIFE IS WORTH MORE THAN THAT,
THEN USE THAT AMOUNT TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE SOME SHELTER
$1.00



JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 2
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING

EDITING BY
LUKESKYWALKER

SUPER ANIME COMICS

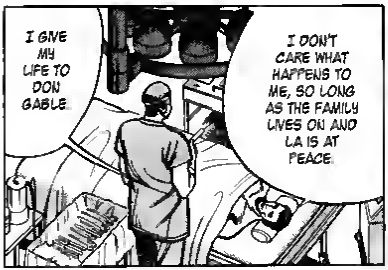
#3: THE MASK OF DEATH FROM PULOTU

Los Angeles
U.S.A.
W-
WHO
ARE
YOU!?
TIMES
V-TONE

ゼロ1

TELL ME YOUR RE-QUEST

OH! YOU MUST BE MR. ZERO!!


I GIVE MY LIFE TO DON GABLE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, SO LONG AS THE FAMILY LIVES ON AND LA IS AT PEACE.

YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME SEBASTIAN GABLE, THE KINGPIN OF THE LOS ANGELES UNDERWORLD

THEN LET'S BEGIN

LOS ANGELES ISN'T AT PEACE DUE TO GOOD PUBLIC ORDER OR AN EXCELLENT POLICE FORCE
IT'S BECAUSE I, SEBASTIAN GABLE, AM HERE
I CAN'T ALLOW ANY RUFFIANS TO RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER MY CITY WHILE I STILL DRAW BREATH
AND BECAUSE OF ME, LA HAS MAINTAINED A STRANGE BALANCE OF PEACE
THE CITIZENS FEEL SAFE WALKING OUTSIDE
.....
I ONLY HAVE ABOUT A MONTH LEFT TO LIVE
AND ONCE THEY HEAR OF MY DEATH, THE BLOOD WILL FLOW UNTIL ANOTHER BOSS TAKES UP MY MANTLE, AND THE CITY WILL BECOME A LAWLESS ZONE AGAIN
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO REPLICATE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD!
PLEASE MAKE A DOUBLE OF ME!

THIS MEANS THAT A GREAT POWER LIKE YOURSELF MUST EITHER EMBRACE IT OR SUPPRESS IT...
AS LONG AS THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR, THE ROOT OF EVIL WILL NEVER TRULY GO AWAY
I AM KEEPING LOS ANGELES AT PEACE JUST BY LIVING ...
YOU CAN TAKE THIS AS MERELY THE SELFISH DRIVEL OF A MOBSTER, IF YOU WISH
AND THIS MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT WAY TO GO ABOUT IT...
ALRIGHT. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO MAKE HIM SUBCONSCIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT HE IS SEBASTIAN GABLE

B... BOSS!
OHHH!
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY TO GO ABOUT IT, LIKE YOU SAID ...
THIS PEACE MAY BE JUST A PRETENSE, BUT YOU'VE STILL SAVED US ...
HMM... THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WHAT REAL PEACE LOOKS LIKE ...

PLEASE DEPOSIT THE THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS* WE AGREED UPON INTO THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS
GRAZIE
*APPROX. FOUR BILLION YEN
MY WIFE IS IN THE KITCHEN, MAKING DINNER
IN MY DREAM MY CHILDREN ARE PLAYING IN THE YARD.
AND I'M... READING THE NEWS-PAPER
Life Scope iQ

THE FIJI ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ARE MADE UP OF 320 ISLANDS. TWO-THIROS OF WHICH ARE UNINHABITED

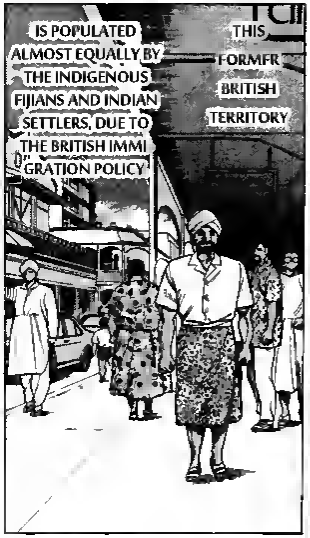
JAPAN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FIJI

AUSTRALIA

FIJI ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC


IS POPULATED ALMOST EQUALLY BY THE INDIGENOUS FIJIANS AND INDIAN SETTLERS, DUE TO THE BRITISH IMMI D" GRATION POLICY
THIS FORMER BRITISH TERRITORY

VITI LEVU ISLAND
CAPITAL CITY: SUVA

HALF OF FIJI'S POPULATION OF 730,000 LIVE ON VITI LEVU.

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CALLED ME?
YOU MUST BE ZERO ...
MY NAME IS SABISONI SELEBI.
!!

THAT IS BECAUSE IT IS FROM MU
I'VE SEEN MASKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT YOURS IS UNLIKE ANY OF THEM
BUT THEY STILL HAVEN'T DISCOVERED EVEN A FRAGMENT OF THE ANCIENT CITY
THERE WAS A POINT IN TIME WHERE PEOPLE ENTERTAINED FANCIFUL IDEAS OF ITS EXISTENCE
MMP YOU MEAN THE ANCIENT CITY OF LEGENDS THAT SUPPOSEDLY SANK INTO THE PACIFIC?
EXACTLY
THIS MASK IS THAT FRAGMENT
TELL ME YOUR REQUEST
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT MYTHS WITH YOU
WHILE THE FOURTH EYE ON THE CHIN REPRESENTS PULOTU**
THIS EYE ON THE MASK'S FOREHEAD IS CALLED RA*
**HELL
*THE SUN GOD

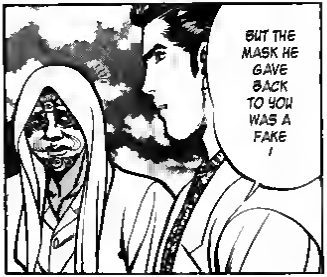
YES, A FLESH MASK.
A FLESH MASK !?
I WANT YOU TO RESTORE THIS AS A "FLESH MASK"...
THIS IS CALLED A FLESH MASK, AND IT HAS OFTEN APPEARED IN SPELLS AND RITUALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PACIFIC ...
THE MASK WILL STICK TO THE FACE OF THE WEARER IN A WAY THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE.
MASKS WERE ORIGINALLY USED TO EMBODY THE APPEARANCE OR SPIRIT OF A GOD, SPIRIT, OR PERSON, BUT WHEN THE MIND OF THE WEARER AND THE WILL INFUSED IN THE MASK BECOME ONE,
SOUNDS LIKE A RATHER DISTURBING PROPOSITION I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF

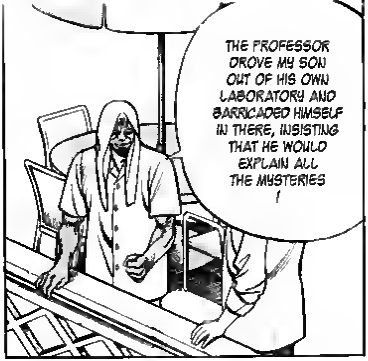
FAR ACROSS THE SEA, THERE WAS ONCE AN ISLAND CALLED ROCOCO. THIS MASK WAS WASHED ASHORE ON THAT ISLAND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO
THERE "WAS" AN ISLAND ..!?
BUT BECAUSE A MISSIONARY TRIED TO HAVE THE MASK BROKEN, THEY INCURRED THE WRATH OF THE GODS OF MU, AND THE ISLAND SANK INTO THE SEA OVERNIGHT ..

BUT HALF A YEAR AGO, IT DRIFTED ON THESE SHORES ONCE AGAIN.
THE ELDERS OF THE ISLAND FEARED THAT IT WAS HERALDING SOME KIND OF DISASTER
THEY HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE TRAGEDY THAT HAPPENED A CENTURY AGO
A HUNDRED YEARS AGO... THAT'S ONLY SLIGHTLY AFTER FIJI BECAME A BRITISH COLONY IN 1874
CORRECT THE SURVIVING ISLANDERS SEALED THE CURSE OF THE MASK WITH A SACRIFICE, WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN BY THEIR CONVERSION*

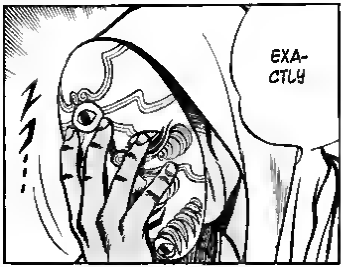
*BRITISH MISSIONARIES LANDED ON FIJI IN 1835 AND BEGAN CONVERTING THE ISLANDERS TO CHRISTIANITY

THE MASK QUICKLY BEGAN TO ABSORB HIS BLOOD,
AND BY THE TIME THE MASK CAME OFF, HIS FACE WAS GONE!
IN HIS DYING MOMENTS, THE YOUNG MAN WROTE THE PHRASE "WRATH OF PULOTU" IN ANCIENT SCRIPT
THAT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A COINCI-DENCE
WOULD THAT WERE TRUE ...
I ENTRUSTED THE MASK TO MY SON, WHO IS THE CURATOR OF A MUSEUM ON THE ISLAND, AND COMMISSIONED A BRITISH PROFESSOR OF ARCHAE-OLOGY TO STUDY IT
WHO IS THIS PRO-FESSOR ?
BUT THE SECOND HE LAID EYES ON THE MASK, HIS EYES BEGAN TO GLEAM UNUSUALLY
HE'S A LEADING FIGURE IN BOTH ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE RESTORATION OF ANCIENT ARTWORK
AND I'VE HEARD THAT HE'S A FANATICAL ART COLLECTOR WHO'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO ADD TO HIS COLLECTION
!!
HIS NAME IS PRO-FESSOR ST JAMES

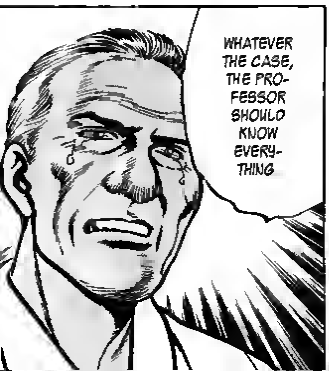

BUT THE MASK HE GAVE BACK TO YOU WAS A FAKE !

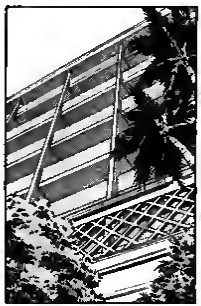

THE PROFESSOR DROVE MY SON OUT OF HIS OWN LABORATORY AND BARRICADED HIMSELF IN THERE, INSISTING THAT HE WOULD EXPLAIN ALL THE MYSTERIES !

EITHER HE HAS INCURRED THE WRATH OF THE MASK BECAUSE IT WAS REMOVED OR...
BUT I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM MY SON EVER SINCE!


EXA-CTLY

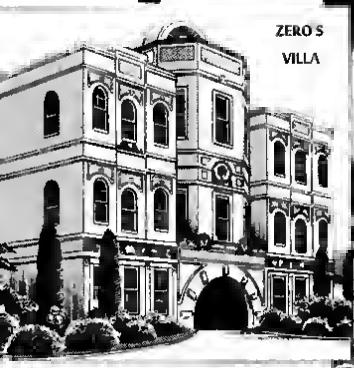
NOT ONLY THAT...
OBVIOUSLY, IT WILL BE DIS-COVERED SOON ENOUGH


WHATEVER THE CASE, THE PRO-FESSOR SHOULD KNOW EVERY-THING

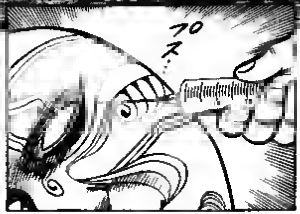


HE WAS MUR-DERED

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN LOOKING FOR ANYONE.
PLEASE, ZERO! PLEASE MAKE THE ORIGINAL FLESH MASK OF PULOTU!
THEN GET THE TRUTH OUT OF THE PROFESSOR AND SOLVE ALL THESE MYSTERIES!
BUT I CAN MAKE YOU THE ORIGINAL FLESH MASK
YOU WILL ...?


ZERO'S
VILLA

SYDNEY AUSTRALIA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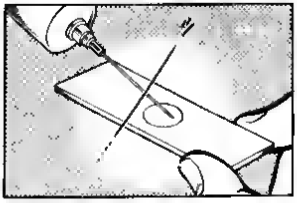

BUT WHAT'S THE EXTRA COMPONENT THAT MADE IT FUSE TO THE FACE!?
THE MASK PROFESSOR ST. JAMES MADE IS PERFECT SO FAR

MU
...IP
FIJI ISLANDS
FORMER LOCATION OF ROCOCO

IF THERE WAS A GREAT CIVILIZATION THAT ONCE FLOURISHED HERE
BURN THE FIELDS ...
AND POLLUTE THE OCEAN.
THE PEOPLE, WHO, TO THEIR PROSPERITY, WOULD CUT DOWN THE FORESTS.
THE CONTINENT OF MU SANK OVERNIGHT.
SO THEY INCURRED THE WRATH OF THE GOD PULOTU.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, BRITISH MISSIONARIES VISITED THESE ISLANDS AND BEGAN CAUSING CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION THAT WOULD DIVIDE THE PEOPLE.
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED ON THE ISLANDS THAT REMAINED OF MU WERE LIVING IN PEACE, UNTIL CHANGE CAME ONCE AGAIN.
J" J" J"...
AND THEN...

THE ISLANDERS HID IN A CAVE ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE, AND PRAYED FOR THE WRATH OF PULOTU TO BE QUELLED.
THEY BELIEVED THEY HAD BEEN SPARED AMIDST THIS PRINCIPLE OF NATURE.
AFTER THE BLESSINGS OF RA COMES THE WRATH OF PULOTU.

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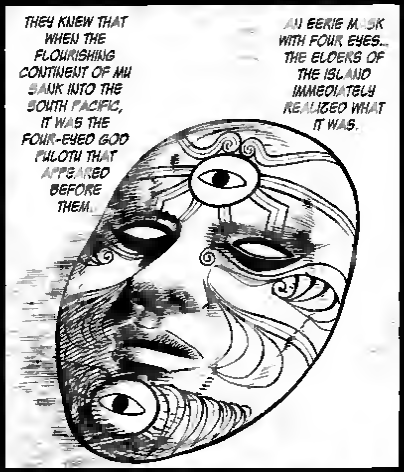
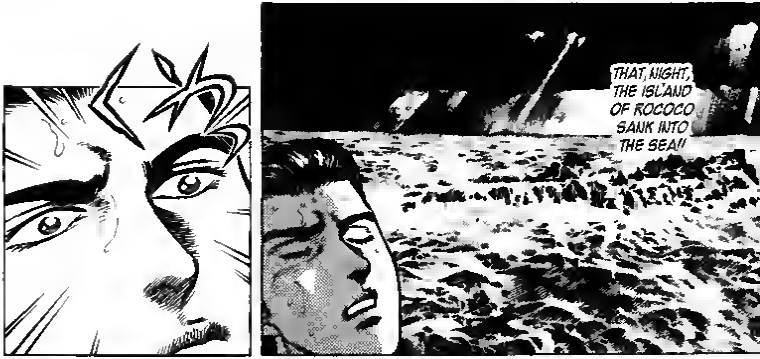
THIS MASK WAS A MESSAGE FROM MU.
AND NOW THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN A WARNING BY PULOTU.
UNN UGH

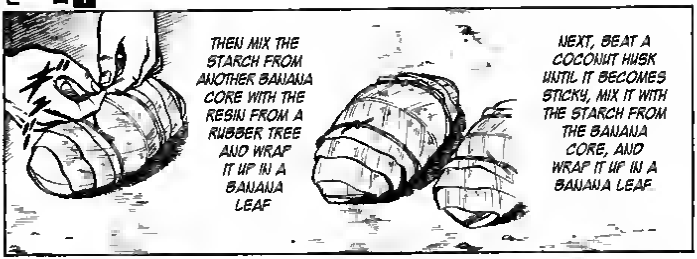

THEY KNEW THAT WHEN THE FLOURISHING CONTINENT OF MU SANK INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC, IT WAS THE FOUR-EYED GOD PULOTU THAT APPEARED BEFORE THEM..
AN EERIE MASK WITH FOUR EYES... THE ELDERS OF THE ISLAND IMMEDIATELY REALIZED WHAT IT WAS.

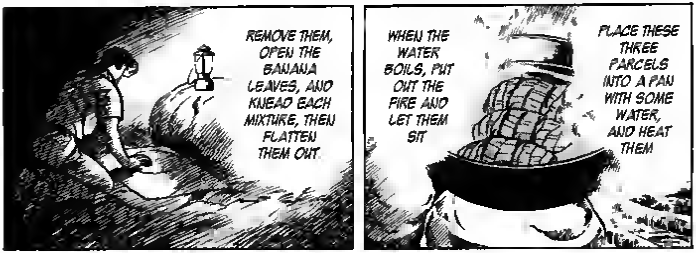
AND IN THE NAME OF MODERNIZING THE ISLAND, ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THE MASK
BUT THE MISSIONARY LAUGHED IT OFF,

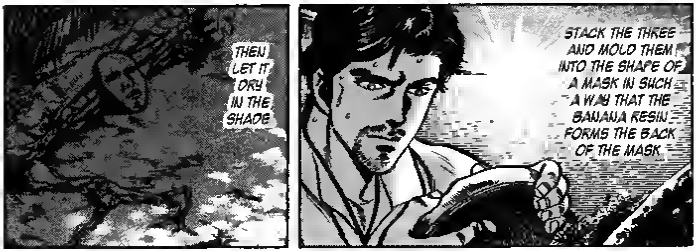

THAT NIGHT, THE ISLAND OF ROCOCO SANK INTO THE SEA!!

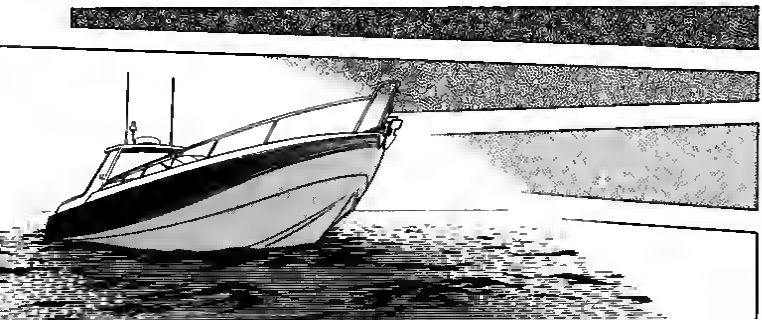
FIJI
A CERTAIN DESERT ISLAND

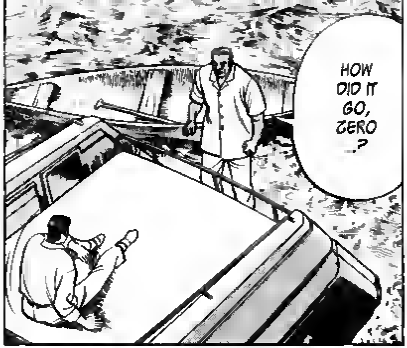
THEN WRAP IT UP IN A BANANA LEAF
GRIND UP THE CORE OF A BANANA AND PICK OUT THE STARCH...


THEN MIX THE STARCH FROM ANOTHER BANANA CORE WITH THE RESIN FROM A RUBBER TREE AND WRAP IT UP IN A BANANA LEAF
NEXT, BEAT A COCONUT HUSK UNTIL IT BECOMES STICKY, MIX IT WITH THE STARCH FROM THE BANANA CORE, AND WRAP IT UP IN A BANANA LEAF


REMOVE THEM, OPEN THE BANANA LEAVES, AND KNEAD EACH MIXTURE, THEN FLATTEN THEM OUT
WHEN THE WATER BOILS, PUT OUT THE FIRE AND LET THEM SIT
PLACE THESE THREE PARCELS INTO A PAN WITH SOME WATER, AND HEAT THEM


THEN LET IT DRY IN THE SHADE
STACK THE THREE AND MOLD THEM INTO THE SHAPE OF A MASK IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE BANANA RESIN FORMS THE BACK OF THE MASK




HOW DID IT GO, ZERO ...?

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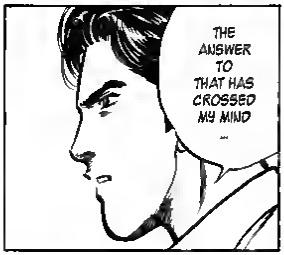
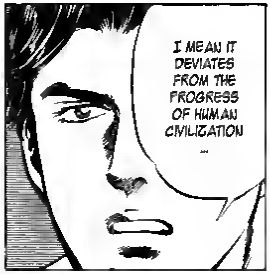
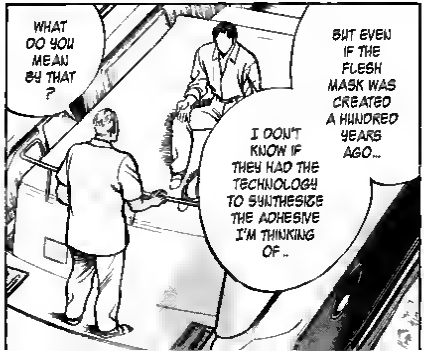

THE ANSWER TO THAT HAS CROSSED MY MIND ...

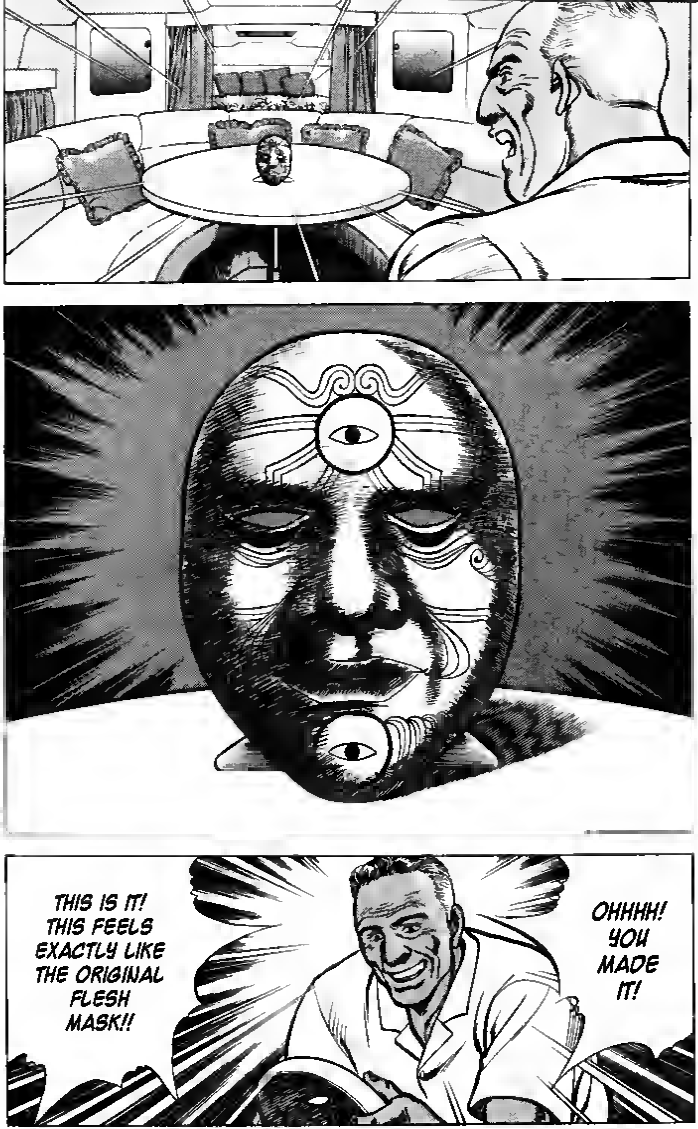
THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS WITH PROFES-SOR ST JAMES' MASK
SO YOU AGREE ...
BUT THE PROBLEM IS THE INSIDE... WHICH IS WHAT MAKES IT A FLESH MASK!

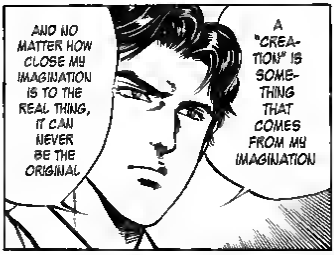
!


I MEAN IT DEVIATES FROM THE PROGRESS OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION ...

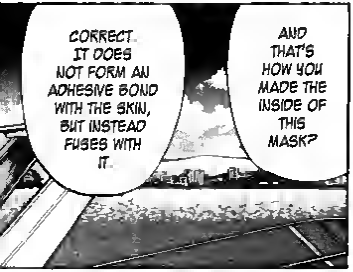

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?
BUT EVEN IF THE FLESH MASK WAS CREATED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAD THE TECHNOLOGY TO SYNTHESIZE THE ADHESIVE I'M THINKING OF..

AFTER ALL, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN SEALED OFF AND ADRIFT AT SEA FOR A HUNDRED YEARS TO MAINTAIN ITS ADHESIVENESS WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY
NOT EVEN THAT TECH-NOLOGY WOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH
YOU'RE NOT SAYING THEY USED SOME KIND OF INSTANT GLUE... !?
IF WE ASSUME THAT HYPO-THESIS ..?
!!
IF WE ASSUME THAT HYPO-THESIS ...
NOW LET'S SAY THAT THERE WAS ONCE A CONTINENT IN THE PACIFIC WITH AN ASTOUNDING CIVILIZATION ...
THEN IT ALL FALLS INTO PLACE...


THIS IS IT! THIS FEELS EXACTLY LIKE THE ORIGINAL FLESH MASK!!
OHHHH! YOU MADE IT!


A "CREATION" IS SOMETHING THAT COMES FROM MY IMAGINATION
AND NO MATTER HOW CLOSE MY IMAGINATION IS TO THE REAL THING, IT CAN NEVER BE THE ORIGINAL

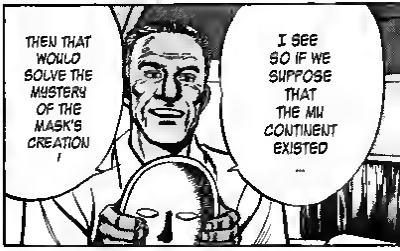
*CASEIN IS A PROTEIN INCLUDED IN MILK. GLUE AND STARCH ARE BOTH ADHESIVE SUBSTANCES. UREA RESIN IS A THERMOSETTING SYNTHETIC RESIN.

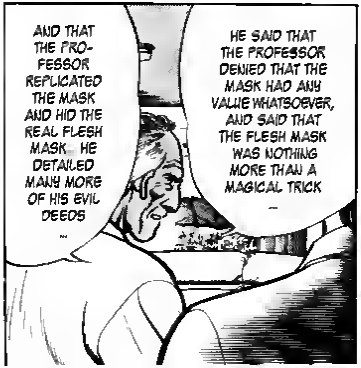

CORRECT. IT DOES NOT FORM AN ADHESIVE BOND WITH THE SKIN, BUT INSTEAD FUSES WITH IT.
AND THAT'S HOW YOU MADE THE INSIDE OF THIS MASK?

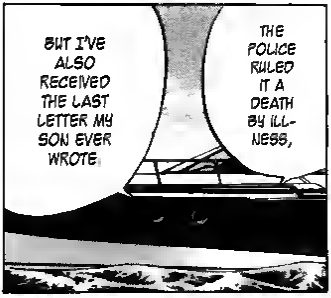
IT BECOMES COMPLETELY NON-ADHESIVE.
AND INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, IF EVEN ONE OF THESE SUBSTANCES IS MISSING ...

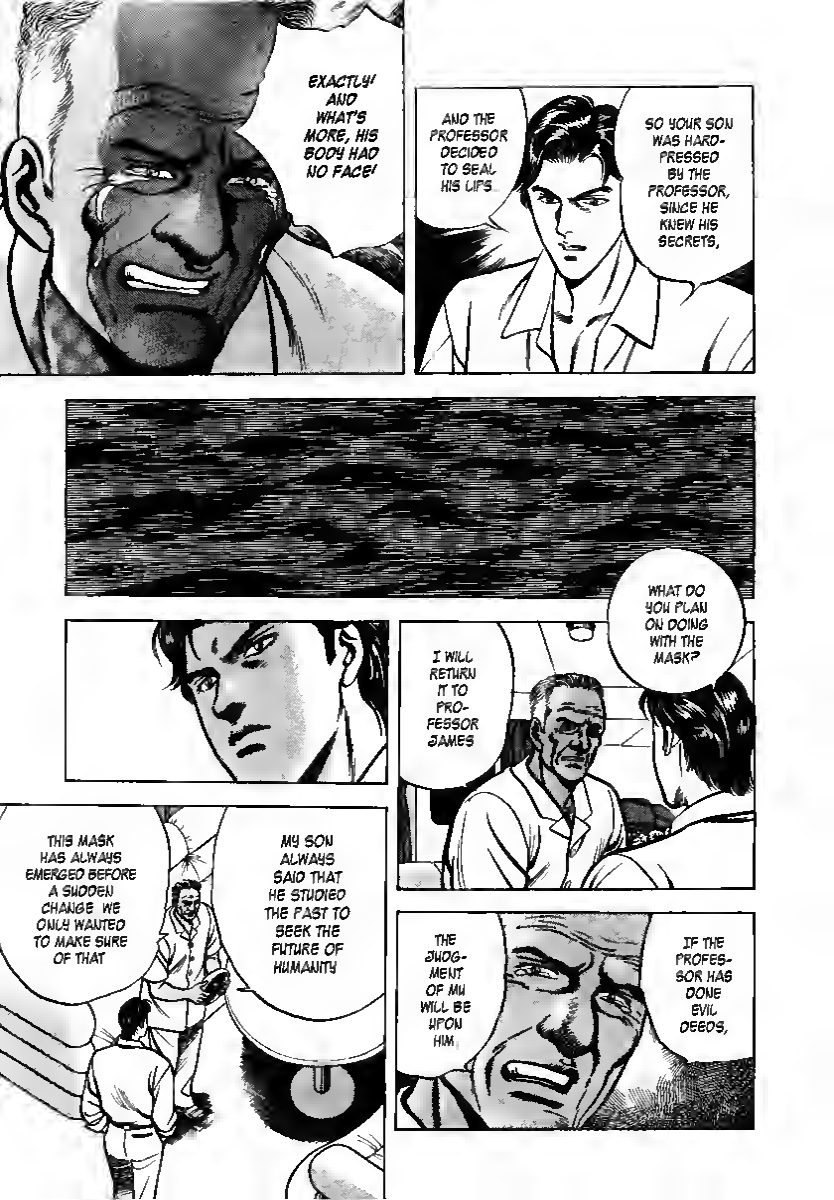
PEOPLE WHO LIVED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE THIS...
BUT THE TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE UREA RESIN WAS ONLY DISCOVERED RECENTLY

MY SON WAS MURDERED, AFTER ALL ...
HIS BODY WAS SENT TO ME THIS MORNING.


I SEE SO IF WE SUPPOSE THAT THE MU CONTINENT EXISTED ...
THEN THAT WOULD SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE MASK'S CREATION!


HE SAID THAT THE PROFESSOR DENIED THAT THE MASK HAD ANY VALUE WHATSOEVER, AND SAID THAT THE FLESH MASK WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MAGICAL TRICK ...
AND THAT THE PROFESSOR REPLICATED THE MASK AND HID THE REAL FLESH MASK. HE DETAILED MANY MORE OF HIS EVIL DEEDS ...


THE POLICE RULED IT A DEATH BY ILLNESS,
BUT I'VE ALSO RECEIVED THE LAST LETTER MY SON EVER WROTE.


EXACTLY! AND WHAT'S MORE, HIS BODY HAD NO FACE!
AND THE PROFESSOR DECIDED TO SEAL HIS LIPS.
SO YOUR SON WAS HARD-PRESSED BY THE PROFESSOR, SINCE HE KNEW HIS SECRETS,
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THE MASK?
I WILL RETURN IT TO PRO-FESSOR JAMES
THIS MASK HAS ALWAYS EMERGED BEFORE A SUDDEN CHANGE. WE ONLY WANTED TO MAKE SURE OF THAT
MY SON ALWAYS SAID THAT HE STUDIED THE PAST TO SEEK THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY
THE JUDG-MENT OF MU WILL BE UPON HIM.
IF THE PROFES-SOR HAS DONE EVIL DEEDS,

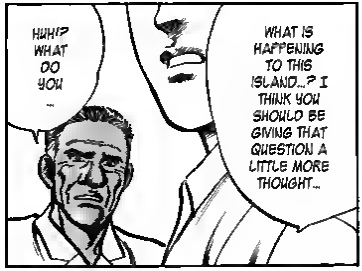
THAT IS OUR WAY, AS PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN NATURE, BLESSED BY THE SUN GOD RA!
THOSE WHO DO NOT FEAR THE GODS WILL RECEIVE THE GODS' JUDGMENT!

HE USED HIS AUTHORITY TO FULFILL HIS SELFISH DESIRES! HE MURDERED MY SON AND ABANDONED US!
BUT THIS JAMES CRUSHED OUR HOPES!

YOUR WAY

IF THE FLESH MASK APPEARING REPRESENTS THE WRATH OF THE GODS.. THEN WHAT HAS CAUSED IT ..?
HOW MANY TREES HAVE BEEN FELLED TO BUILD THAT HOTEL OVER THERE?
THIS ISLAND'S FILLING UP WITH RESORTS BUILT ON FOREIGN CAPITAL

?
NO, NEVER MIND GO AHEAD AND TAKE THAT MASK TO ENGLAND

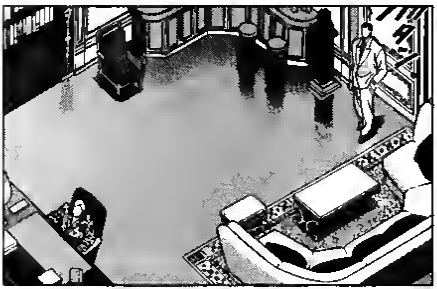

HUH!? WHAT DO YOU ..
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THIS ISLAND...? I THINK YOU SHOULD BE GIVING THAT QUESTION A LITTLE MORE THOUGHT...

LONDON, ENGLAND
PROF. JAMES' ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
I'M GIVING THIS BACK TO YOU.
HAHAHA. YOU'RE SPEAKING AS IF YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF EVIDENCE AGAINST ME...
AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?
I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW BEST OF ALL
IT'S A LETTER FROM MY SON HE WROTE ABOUT YOUR WRONGDOINGS IN ELABORATE DETAIL.
WHAT IS THAT ?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO

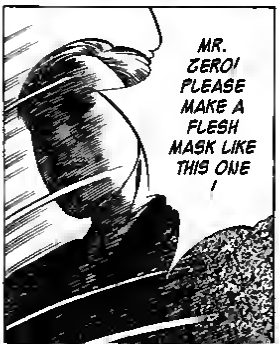
THE MASK KNOWS THE TRUTH, AND THE MASK WILL JUDGE YOU
THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY
WOULD YOU RATHER I CALLED THE POLICE HERE..?
WAHHAHAHA... A SIMPLE LETTER CAN BE EASILY FORGED
ハハハ
BUT I COULD NEVER FIGURE OUT THE LAST COMPOUND
I FOUND THE PORCELAIN-WHITE COLOR OF CASEIN, THE UNIQUE VISCOSITY OF GLUE, AND THE STICKY TEXTURE OF STARCH
I ANALYZED THE FLESH MASK, AND FOUND THAT IT WAS BASED ON THE FIBERS OF BANANA CORES
!

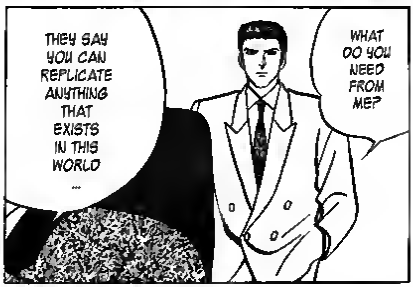
THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THESE MASKS.. THE ORIGINAL IS BEHIND THE BOOK-SHELVES IN MY HOME
BUT THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE !
THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE ONE I MADE ..
Z
BUT UNFORTU-NATELY, I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT A FLESH MASK, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED.
AND THIS I S THE OTHER ONE... THE ONE I MADE...
GW AAA AAA UGH !
I CAN'T GET IT OFF !
WA AAAA AAAA AUGH !
HE HE HE ..
HMM !?

SUBURBS OF LONDON
PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF PROF. ST. JAMES



THE MASTER IS EAGERLY EXPECTING YOU. DO COME IN


MR. ZERO! PLEASE MAKE A FLESH MASK LIKE THIS ONE !


THEY SAY YOU CAN REPLICATE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD ...
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN CREATING SOMETHING WITH SUCH HISTORICAL VALUE ?
YOU'VE NEVER MADE A FLESH MASK BEFORE, HAVE YOU ?
I'M SURPRISED THAT A MAN OF YOUR CALIBER WOULD BE TURNING TO SOMEONE LIKE ME
YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY, YOU KNOW
AREN'T YOU PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY?
IF YOU SUCCEED, YOU WILL HAVE MADE AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY
YOU CAN REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THIS MASK THROUGH THE PROCESS OF CREATING IT,
AS WELL AS FIND A WAY TO REMOVE IT FROM MY FACE

I DON'T HAVE ONE !!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A RATHER ELABORATE MASK
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T REPLICATE THAT MASK WITHOUT A MODEL
I DON'T HAVE A MODEL, BUT I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE MONEY YOU NEED !
BUT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE A MERE COUNTER-FEITER ALL YOUR LIFE?
IF THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR ME, I'LL JUST LEAVE NOW
I HAVE NO NEED FOR PRESTIGE
W-WAIT !
I SUPPOSE THIS WON'T BE A GOOD JOB FOR ME
THAT THE MASK'S DESIGN CAN'T SIMPLY ARISE FROM THE IMAGINA-TION ALONE EVEN YOUR STUDENTS COULD TELL YOU THAT
PRO-FESSOR JAMES, AS AN ARCHAE-OLOGIST YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD KNOW
MM GH ...

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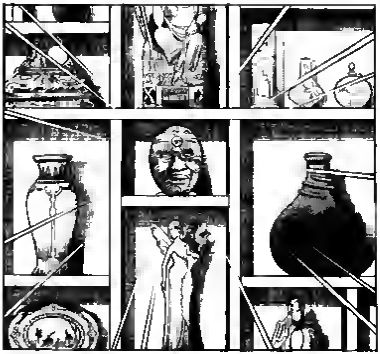
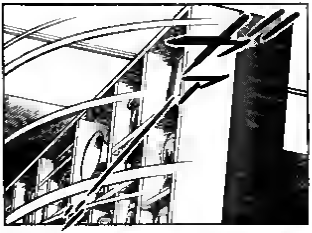
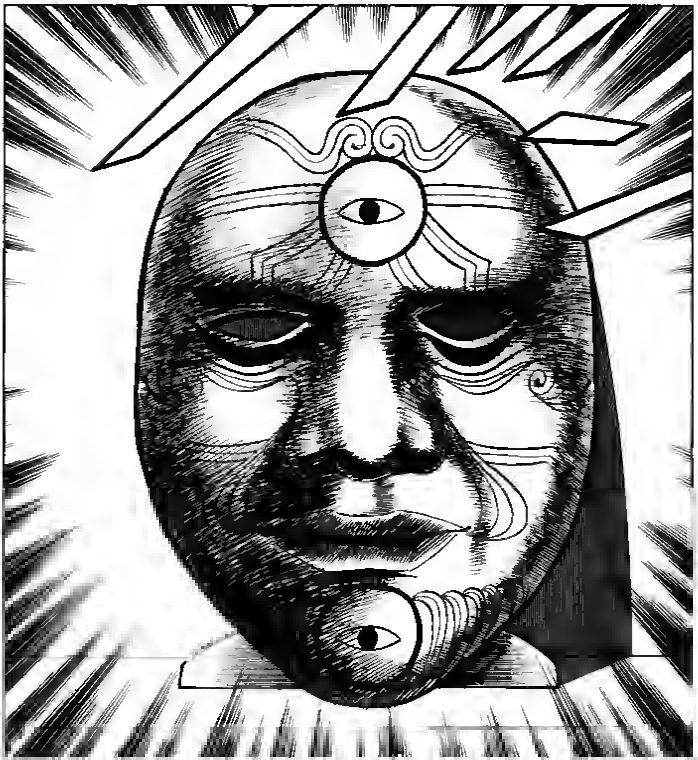
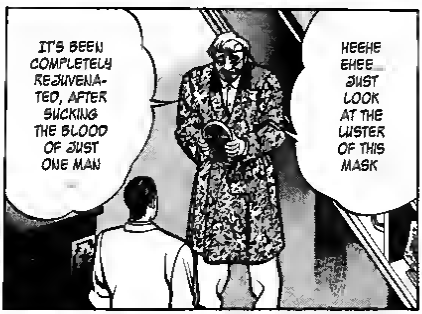






ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE? TO THINK THAT SUCH A FANTASTICAL MASK EVER EXISTED ...


IT'S BEEN COMPLETELY REJUVENATED, AFTER SUCKING THE BLOOD OF JUST ONE MAN
HEEHE EHEE... JUST LOOK AT THE LUSTER OF THIS MASK

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO ENTRUST ANYONE ELSE WITH SUCH AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL RELIC... ?
HEE HEE HEE

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
ゴゴゴ
THERE ONLY NEEDS TO BE ONE ORIGINAL
ゴゴゴ

HUH ..!?
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THIS!
GYA AAAA AAAA AAAH HHHH!

ゼロ1…
THE DESTRUCTION OF MU AND THE TSUNAMI AFTER THE CONVERSION… PULOTU'S WRATH ALWAYS COMES AFTER A RADICAL CHANGE…
I SUPPOSE I'M TOO LATE…
I FINALLY FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU HAD SAID TO ME, SO I TURNED BACK
AND THE PROFESSOR'S MURDER OF MY SON WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IF WE HADN'T SOUGHT AN EXPLANATION FOR THE FLESH MASK…
IT WASN'T SOMETHING WE COULD EXPLAIN BY SOLVING THE SECRET OF THE MASK…
THIS TIME IT WAS A MESSAGE OF WARNING THAT WE HAD DESTROYED TOO MUCH OF THE ISLAND'S NATURE

WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE VALUE OF THE GIFTS FROM THE GODS, AND WE MAY HAVE DRAGGED THE PROFESSOR'S FATE DOWN WITH US..
I'LL TAKE THE ISLANDS. EVERY ISLAND THAT'S UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS.
B-BUT
PLEASE MAKE OUT THE DEEDS TO THE OWNER OF THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT "ALL ZERO" WITHIN TWO WEEKS

ニコッ
I'LL LET YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE MANAGE MY ISLANDS
HIS NAME, NATIONALITY, AND ORIGIN ARE UNKNOWN ..
ZERO ...
THE MAN WHO CAN REPLICATE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD ..

JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 3
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING

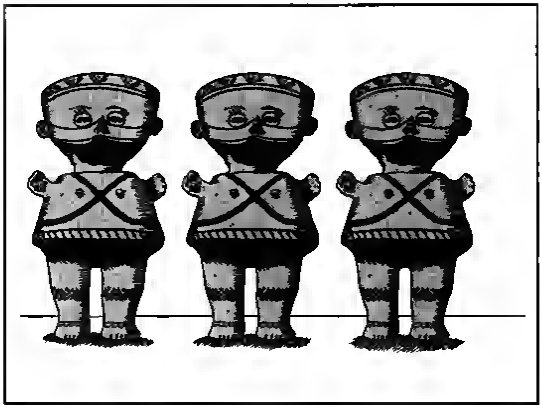
EDITING BY
LUKESKYWALKER

SUPER ANIME COMICS

#4:
THE MADONNA
OF CHANCAY
ZERO

Miami~U.S.A.
HERE ARE THE FAXES OF EIGHT NATIONS' MORNING NEWS-PAPERS YOU ORDERED
THANK YOU.

PABAA
!
THE BANKS OF THE RHINE
York Times



BANKS OF THE RHINE, GERMANY
The New York Times

I'LL HAVE A DUN-KEL.
COR-RECT.
MR. ZERO !?
LET'S HEAR YOUR REQUEST.
!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...
A-ACTU-ALLY...

MY FATHER TOLD ME TO GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU ...
SO HE PROBABLY ASSUMED YOU'D KNOW ONCE I SAW YOU

MY FATHER'S 97 YEARS OLD HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE, AND HE'S CONFINED TO A BED

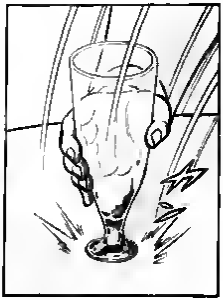
I'M AFRAID I DON'T.

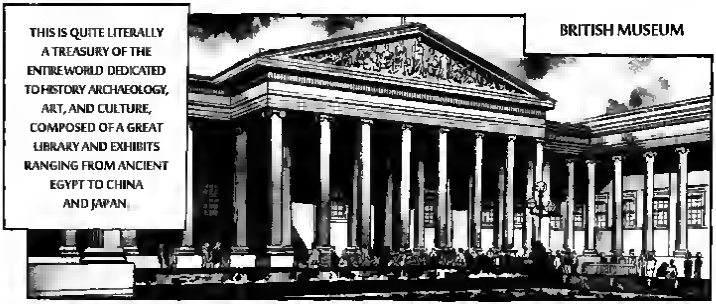
WHAT'S YOUR FATHER'S NAME ?

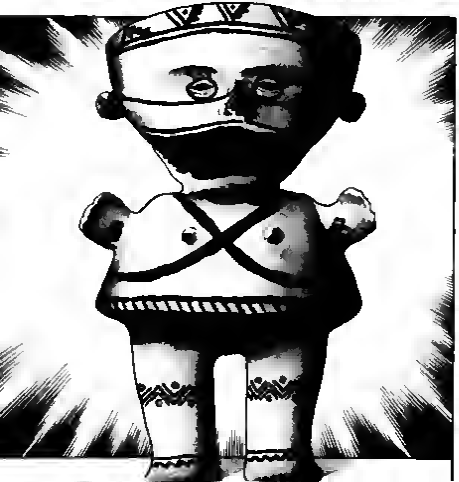
AL-FRED OOS-SENA

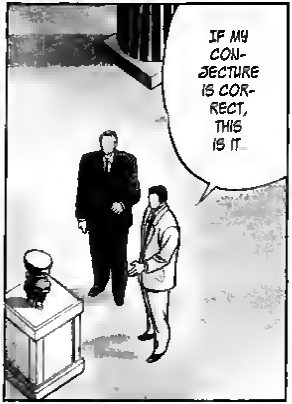
THE LAST GREAT SCULPTOR OF THE CENTURY, KNOWN AS THE MODERN-DAY MICHELANGELO !!
FRED DOE-BEN
NO... I KNOW HIM AS A WELL-RENOWNED SCULPTOR.. BUT NEVER MET HIM ...
BEG YOUR PARDON... BUT HAVE YOU MET MY FATHER BEFORE ?
!
I SEE
THEN HOW DO YOU FIGURE MY FATHER KNOWS ABOUT YOU?
AND WHY DID YOU ANSWER "I SEE" ?
?!

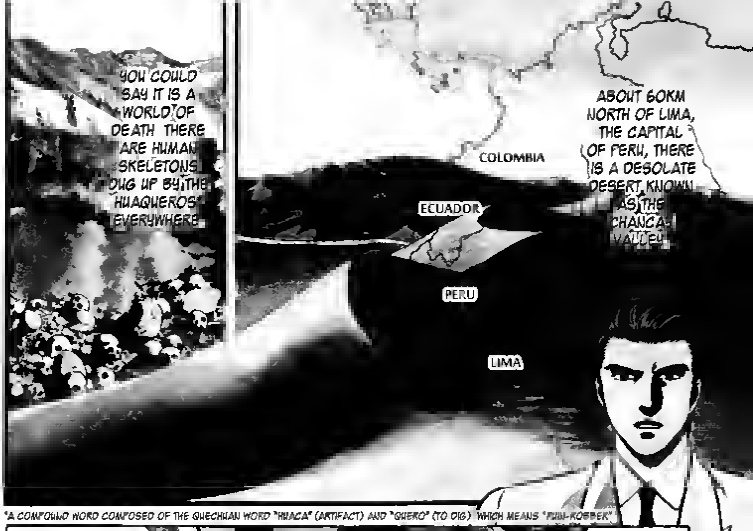
MEET ME AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM TOMOR-ROW




THIS IS QUITE LITERALLY A TREASURY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD DEDICATED TO HISTORY ARCHAEOLOGY, ART, AND CULTURE, COMPOSED OF A GREAT LIBRARY AND EXHIBITS RANGING FROM ANCIENT EGYPT TO CHINA AND JAPAN...
BRITISH MUSEUM




IF MY CON-JECTURE IS COR-RECT, THIS IS IT...


YOU COULD SAY IT IS A WORLD OF DEATH. THERE ARE HUMAN SKELETONS DUG UP BY THE HUAQUEROS* EVERYWHERE.
ABOUT 60KM NORTH OF LIMA, THE CAPITAL OF PERU, THERE IS A DESOLATE DESERT, KNOWN AS THE CHANCAY VALLEY.
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
LIMA
*A COMPOUND WORD COMPOSED OF THE QUECHUAN WORD "HUACA" (ARTIFACT) AND "QUERO" (TO DIG) WHICH MEANS "TOMB-ROBBER."
HENCE, ANY ARTIFACTS DUG UP HERE CAN BE SOLD AT A HIGH PRICE
IN FACT, THEY CAME A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE INCAN CIVILIZATION, SO THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS THE PROTO-INCAN CIVILIZATION.
THE CHANCAY CIVILIZATION FLOURISHED WELL OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO

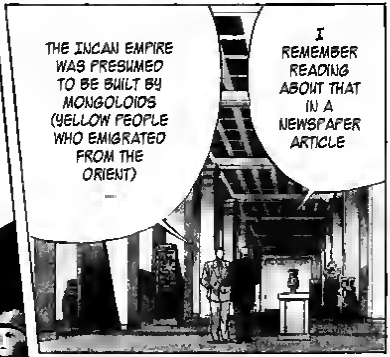
32 YEARS AGO, A HUAQUERO WAS DIGGING UP THE GRAVE OF A NOBLE PERSON.

BUT THIS MAN DISCO-VERED AN EARTHEN DOLL LIKE HE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE

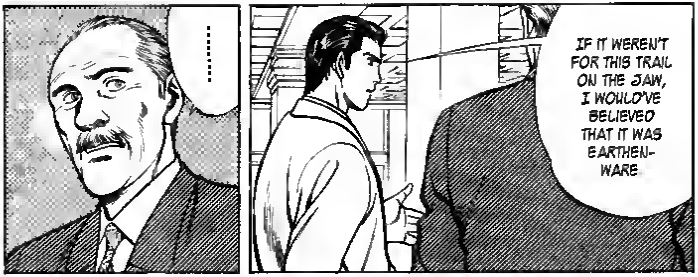
THE HUAQUERO WOULD PURIFY THE GRAVES WITH RUM, DIG UP THE EARTHENWARE, REMOVE THE MASK AND MAKE OFF WITH ALL THE ARTICLES BURIED WITH THE BODY
THEIR MUMMIES WERE BURIED WITH GOLD, SILVER, AND EARTHEN MASKS DEPENDING ON THEIR STATUS

AND THIS IS IT !
THIS DOLL WAS LATER NAMED THE MADONNA OF CHAN-CAY ...

BUT WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MY FATHER?
AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY ADDED EXTRA WEIGHT TO THIS THEORY DUE TO THE SIMILARITIES WITH EASTERN HANIWA AND DOGU SCULPTURES ...

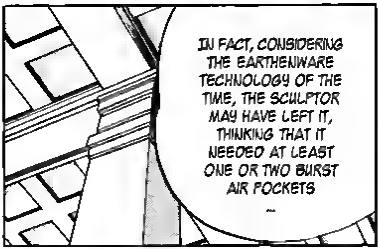

THE INCAN EMPIRE WAS PRESUMED TO BE BUILT BY MONGOLOIDS (YELLOW PEOPLE WHO EMIGRATED FROM THE ORIENT) ...
I REMEMBER READING ABOUT THAT IN A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

?
EVERY-THING DISCO-VERED THERE IS EARTHEN-WARE.
NOT A SINGLE SCULPTURE WAS FOUND IN THE CHANCAY VALLEY.
!?
BUT THE INSTANT I FIRST LAID EYES ON THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY, MY INTUITION TOLD ME IT WAS NOT EARTHEN-WARE!
SO THAT'S WHY EVERY ARCHAEOLOGIST ASSUMED THAT THIS IS EARTHEN-WARE, AS WELL ...
THEY WOULD VERY RARELY FIND GOLD AND SILVER MASKS ...
LOOK AT THE SMALL CHIP UNDER THE MA-DONNA'S RIGHT JAW
I STILL THINK THAT WAY
BUT MY INTUITION TELLS ME THAT THIS IS THE TRAIL OF A POLY-CHAETE* ...
IT'S TRUE THAT THESE KINDS OF CHIPS OCCUR IN EARTHEN-WARE, DUE TO POCKETS OF AIR IN THE CLAY BUR-STING WHEN IT IS BAKED.
*MARY CRAWLING WORMS THAT LIVE ON BEACHES. INCLUDING NEREIDIDAE. THEIR ANCIENT TRAILS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN FOSSILS.


.....
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS TRAIL ON THE JAW, I WOULD'VE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS EARTHEN-WARE

BUT A SCULPTOR SHAPES THE RAW MATERIAL BY CARVING IT. THAT'S WHY THESE TRAILS ARE OFTEN LEFT BEHIND.
EARTHENWARE IS MADE FROM MOLDING AND BAKING CLAY. EVEN IF THEY USED ROCKS AS THE RAW MATERIAL, THEY WOULD GRIND THEM UP INTO POWDER FIRST.

IN FACT, IT'S PERFECT!
THE ONLY SCULPTOR IN THE ENTIRE WORLD SKILLED ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS...


IN FACT, CONSIDERING THE EARTHENWARE TECHNOLOGY OF THE TIME, THE SCULPTOR MAY HAVE LEFT IT, THINKING THAT IT NEEDED AT LEAST ONE OR TWO BURST AIR POCKETS...

!
THIS HAD TO BE MADE BY A TALENTED SCULPTOR, TO MAKE IT LOOK SO MUCH LIKE EARTHEN-WARE

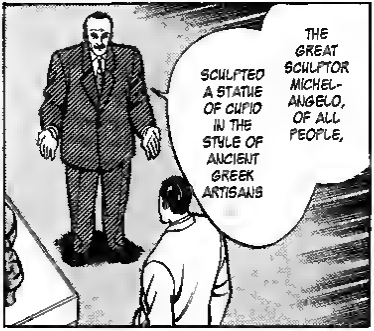
IS ALFRED DOS-SENA !
I SURMISED ALL OF THIS FROM THE SCULPTURE, BUT KEPT IT BURIED DEEP IN MY MIND
YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT MY FATHER WAS AN ARTIFACT COUNTER-FEITER ...!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE !
I KNEW THAT MY SUPPO-SITION WAS CORRECT
THEN WHEN I HEARD THAT MY CLIENT WAS ALFRED DOSSENA,

ARE YOU AWARE OF MICHEL-ANGELO'S "SLEEPING CUPID" ?

!?
COR-RECT.

I-I KNOW ABOUT IT. IT'S A VERY FAMOUS COUNTER-FEIT.

THEN BURIED IT UNDER A HILL IN ROME, AND EXCAVATED IT AGAIN HIMSELF


THE GREAT SCULPTOR MICHEL-ANGELO, OF ALL PEOPLE,
SCULPTED A STATUE OF CUPID IN THE STYLE OF ANCIENT GREEK ARTISANS

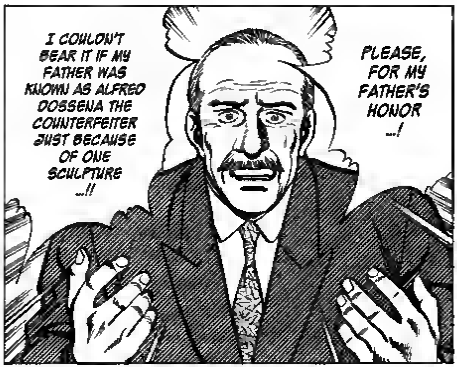
BUT MICHEL-ANGELO SOON ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY A COUNTERFEIT
THE CARDINAL NEVER NOTICED THAT IT WAS A COUNTERFEIT MADE BY MICHELANGELO
HE THEN WENT THROUGH LORENZO DI MEDICI, TO PRESENT IT TO CARDINAL RIARIO, THE GREATEST COLLECTOR OF ANCIENT ART AT THE TIME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS MOTIVE WAS ...
PUFF PUFF ...
HE WANTS TO RECLAIM THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY, THE ONE BLEMISH ON HIS CAREER ...
AND NOW THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT ...
THAT'S PRO-BABLY THE CASE
BUT IF THIS IS TRUE.. FATHER WOULD SAY IT WAS HIS YOUTHFUL INDISCRETION... THAT HE WAS OVERCONFIDENT IN HIS SKILL, JUST LIKE MICHELANGELO ...

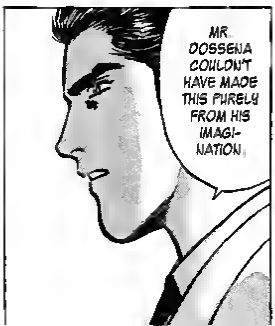
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY DIDN'T FATHER ANNOUNCE THAT HE'D MADE IT IMMEDIATELY, JUST LIKE MICHELANGELO DID..?
...AND DESTROY IT WITH HIS OWN HANDS!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE THE BRITISH MUSEUM PUT IT ON DISPLAY BEFORE HE COULD COME FORWARD...
THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY IS ON THE CATALOG.
THERE'S A BRITISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN FRANCE IN TWO MONTHS.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

NO, THERE IS ONE WAY!

SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, SHORT OF STEALING IT...?
THAT MEANS IT'LL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE TIGHT SECURITY OF THE MUSEUM WITHIN A WEEK
THERE'S TWO MONTHS UNTIL THE EXHIBIT

I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR!
WHAT IS THIS WAY ...!?


I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF MY FATHER WAS KNOWN AS ALFRED DOSSENA THE COUNTERFEITER JUST BECAUSE OF ONE SCULPTURE ...!!
PLEASE, FOR MY FATHER'S HONOR ...!

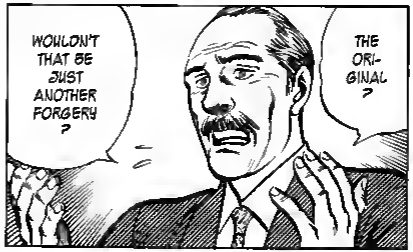

MR. DOSSENA COULDN'T HAVE MADE THIS PURELY FROM HIS IMAGI-NATION

!!
WE RE-PLACE IT!

MY FATHER WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANCIENT ART.
HE PROBABLY VISITED THE CHANCAY VALLEY WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING THE WORLD
AFTER ALL, THE SCULPTURE WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE EARTHENWARE ...
AND THAT MADONNA WAS MOST LIKELY EARTHENWARE.
HE MAY HAVE HAPPENED UPON THE MADONNA IN THE CHANCAY VALLEY,
EITHER WAY, HE PROBABLY TOOK IT HOME AND LOOKED AT IT DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
BUT EITHER THE MADONNA WAS BROKEN OR THROWN AWAY BY THE HUAQUERO, WHO HAD NO ARTISTIC INTERESTS
THE REASON ALFRED DOSSENA COMMISSIONED ME...
THEN HE SUCCUMBED TO TEMPTATION

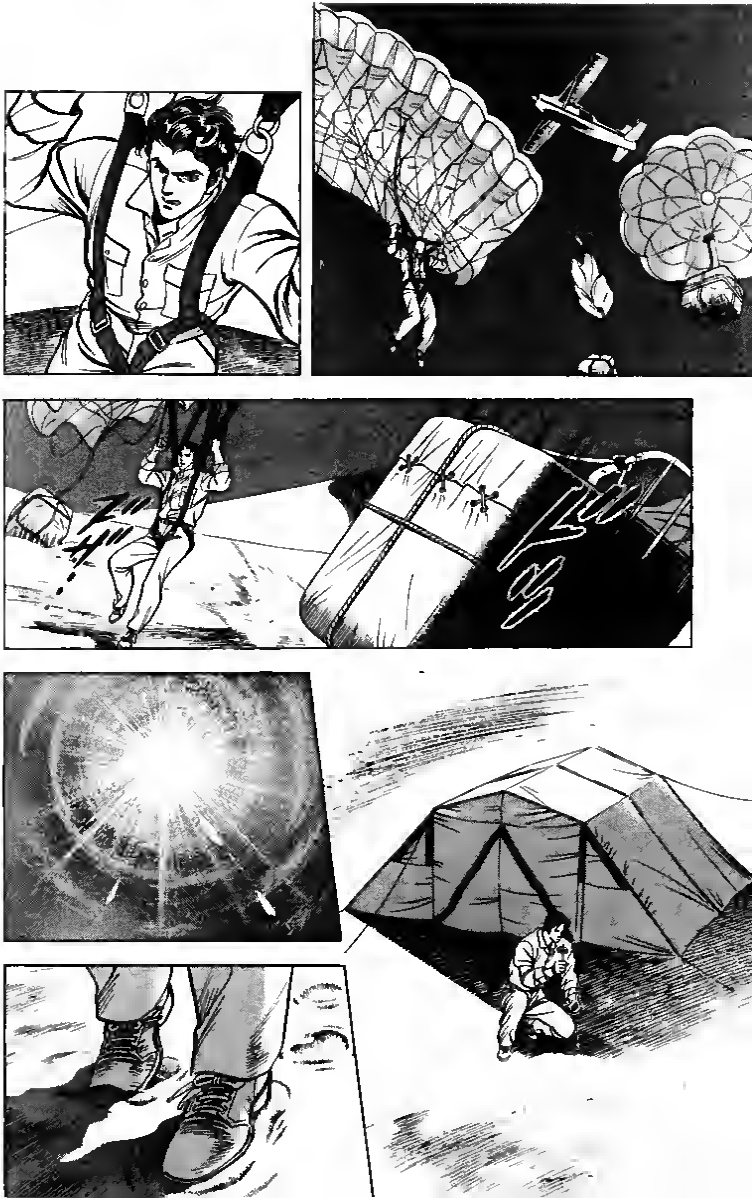
ゼロ1
NO. I NEVER MAKE FORGE-RIES.

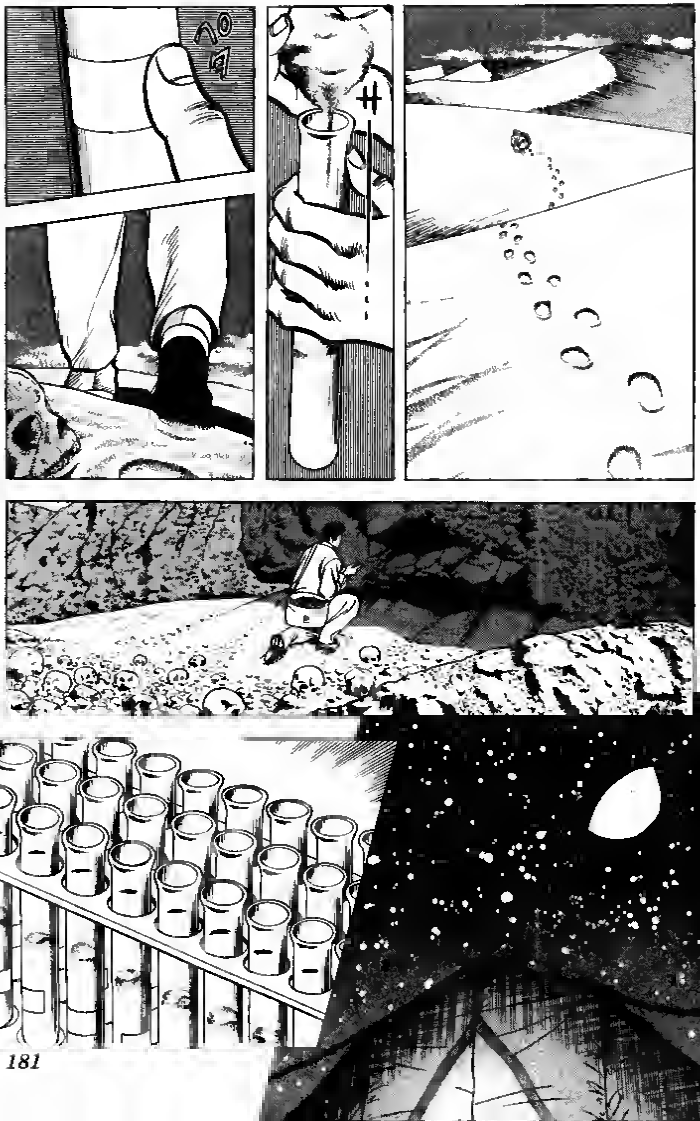
I WILL BE RES-TORING THE "ORIGINAL" MADON-NA
IF THAT'S TRUE

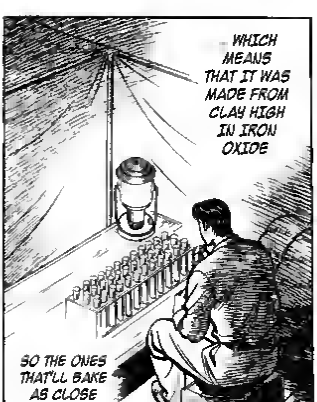

WOULDN'T THAT BE JUST ANOTHER FORGERY ?
THE ORI-GINAL ?

IS BECAUSE HE WANTED ME TO CREATE AN EARTHENWARE MADONNA TO TAKE ITS PLACE!

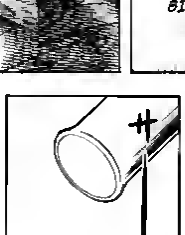
PERU, SOUTH AMERICA



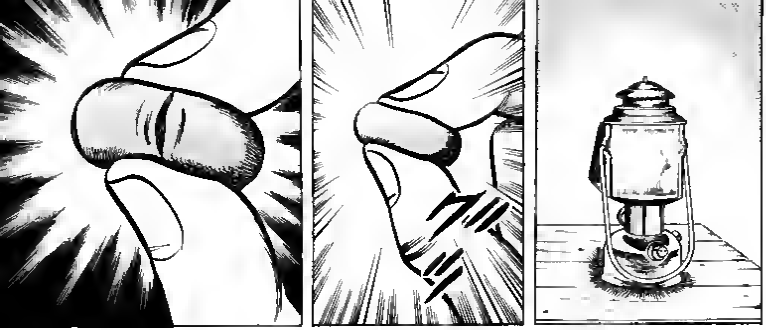


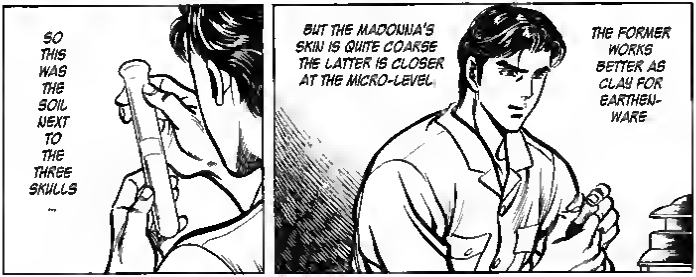

WHICH MEANS THAT IT WAS MADE FROM CLAY HIGH IN IRON OXIDE
SO THE ONES THAT'LL BAKE AS CLOSE TO THE MADONNA'S SKIN COLOR AS POSSIBLE..

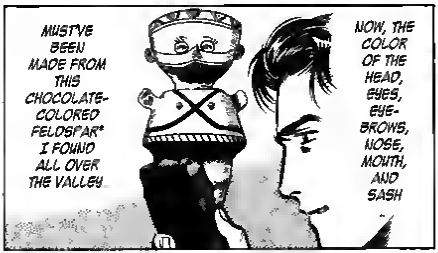
THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY'S SKIN IS A REDDISH-BROWN BISQUE



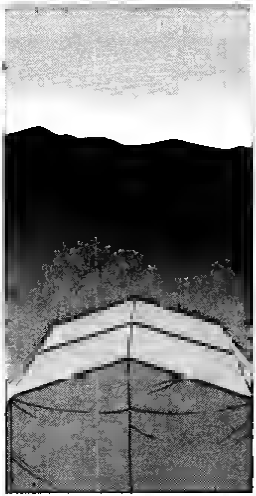
AND THIS ONE..
ARE THIS ONE

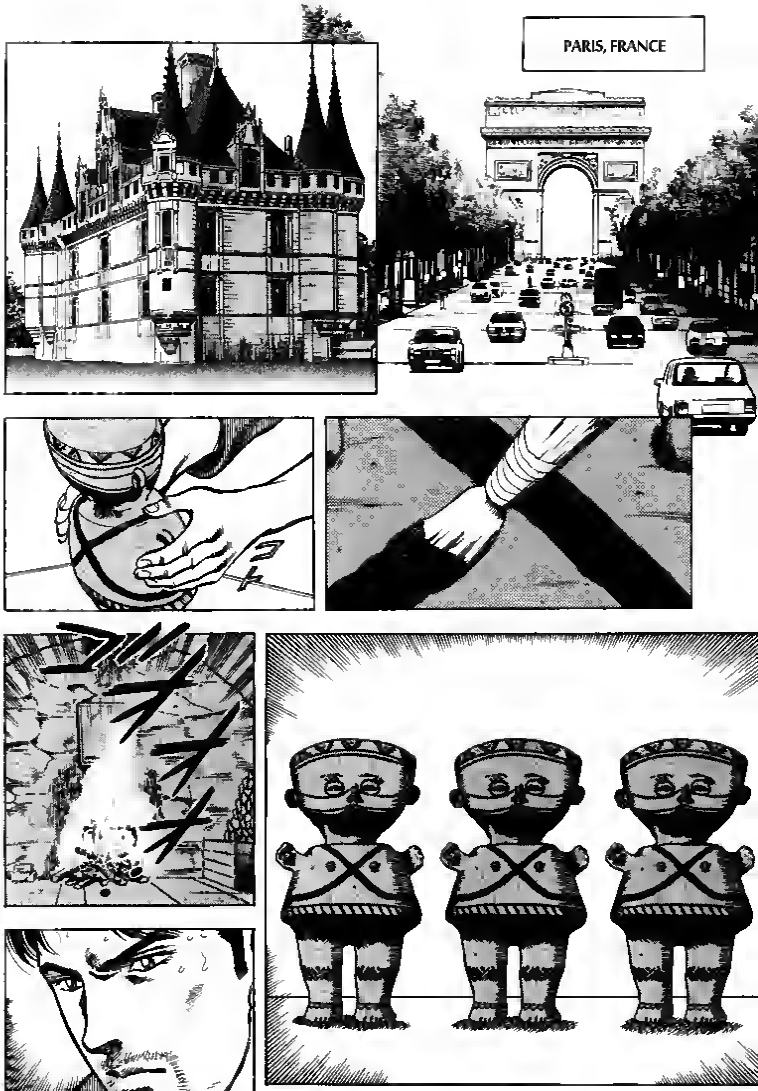



SO THIS WAS THE SOIL NEXT TO THE THREE SKULLS ...
BUT THE MADONNA'S SKIN IS QUITE COARSE THE LATTER IS CLOSER AT THE MICRO-LEVEL.
THE FORMER WORKS BETTER AS CLAY FOR EARTHEN-WARE


MUST'VE BEEN MADE FROM THIS CHOCOLATE-COLORED FELDSPAR* I FOUND ALL OVER THE VALLEY.
NOW, THE COLOR OF THE HEAD, EYES, EYE-BROWS, NOSE, MOUTH, AND SASH ...

*THE MAIN COMPONENT OF IGNEOUS ROCK, AND A RAW MATERIAL USED IN CERAMICS




PARIS, FRANCE

IS TO FIFIRE IT!
... THIS MEANS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FIRE THE SOIL OF CHANCAY
BUT IT WASN'T KAOLIN, IT WAS TALC*!
I THOUGHT IT INCLUDED SILICA*, KAOLIN*, AND A LITTLE BIT OF BENTONITE*
...

*SILICA = ALSO KNOWN AS QUARTZ CAN BE GLASSY

*KAOLIN = ALSO KNOWN AS CHINA CLAY. MORE PURE THAN CLAY, ALSO FIRE-RESISTANT

*BENTONITE = A PRODUCT OF DEVITRIFIED GLASS IN VOLCANIC ASH

*TALC = MAGNESIUM SILICATE LESS PURE THAN KAOLIN

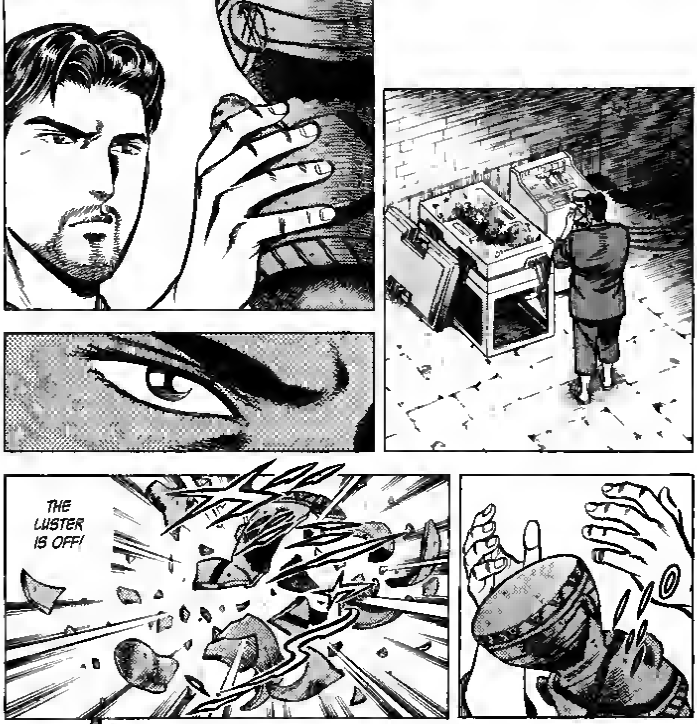
I'LL SLOWLY MOVE THE FIREWOOD FURTHER BACK AS THE SUN RISES

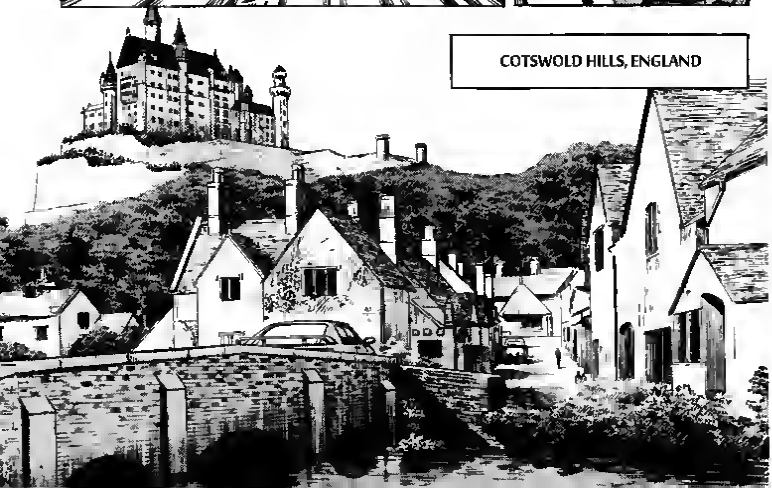
ドドドドドドドド
ドドドドドドドド

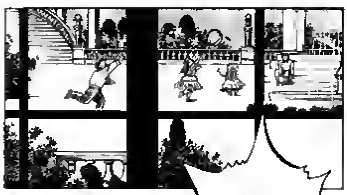
GOOD! IT'S BAKED ..!
NOW THE ONLY PROBLEM LEFT IS HOW TO AGE IT OVER A THOUSAND YEARS.

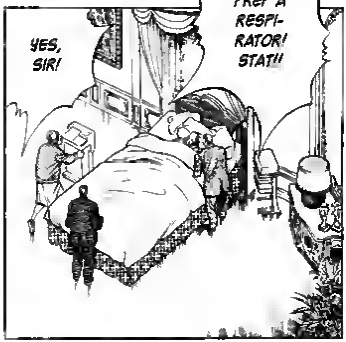
THEN I'LL COVER IT WITH DIRT, THEN DRY GRASS, SAND, AND MORE DIRT, AND CLOSE THE LID
I'LL FILL THE BOTTOM OF THIS IRON BOX WITH DIRT, THEN COVER IT WITH HUMUS
THEN SAND, THEN MORE DIRT.. THEN I PLACE THE MADONNA ON TOP
ONE THOU-SAND YEARS AND A FEW CEN-TURIES
THAT SHOULD DO IT !
IN JUST AN HOUR, THE MADONNA'S SKIN WILL HAVE PICKED UP OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY

JUST ONE MISTAKE IN A LIFE-TIME ..
ARTISTS VALUE THEIR NAME ABOVE THEIR LIFE ..
ALFRED DOSSEUA... I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL SO WELL, IT HURTS
THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER SAID WHEN HE DIED..


THE LUSTER IS OFF!


COTSWOLD HILLS, ENGLAND




YES, SIR!
PREP A RESPI-RATOR! STAT!!

RESIDENCE OF ALFRED DOSSENA

RTCH
RTCH
RTCH

CHES-
TER..
CHES-
TER..
PLEASE
WAIT
JUST A
LITTLE
BIT
LONGER
!!
PHONE
CALL
FOR
YOU,
MASTER
FATHER,
YOU
WERE A
GREAT MAN,
EVEN IF
YOU MADE
ONE
FAILURE!
CHES-
TER
..
I
CONSIDER
MYSELF
PROUD TO
BE THE SON
OF SUCH
A GREAT
SCULPTOR
AS YOU!
OHHH!
GOOD
NEWS,
FATHER
!
I'M SURE
THIS IS
MR. ZEKO
GIVING
US A
FAVORABLE
REPORT!!

THE MADONNA OF CHANCAY IS THERE AS WELL. THIS IS GOING TO BE A SPLENDID SHOW!
THE EXHIBITS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM ARRIVED IN FRANCE ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.
HEL-LO ?
AM I SPEAKING WITH MR CHESTER DOSSEWA? THIS IS EDMOND
CHES-TER... CHES-TER...
YOU
THANK YOU
I CAN BARELY BELIEVE YOU'RE PAYING ME A THOUSAND FRANCS JUST FOR THIS ONE REPORT...
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THIS REPORT ?
MASTER, YOU HAVE A VISITOR
!!
GOOD
GOOD
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
AH, FATHER! THAT WAS ZERO! ZERO'S ON HIS WAY HERE WITH GOOD NEWS!

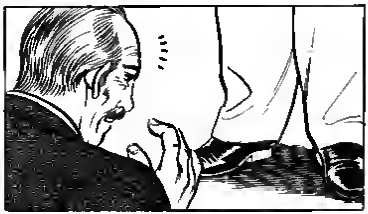
I NEED TO BE ALONE

WAS THAT GOOD ENOUGH, MASTER ?
YES THANK YOU ...

SEE, FATHER? SPEAK OF THE DEVIL !

I GUESS NOT EVEN ZERO, COULD DO IT IN JUST A WEEK

!!

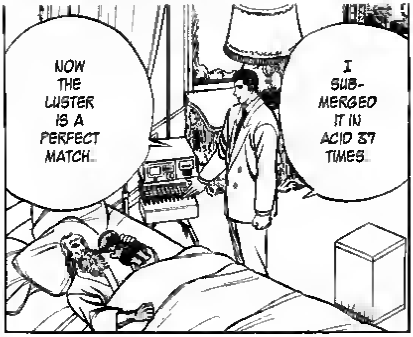


OHHH! THANK YOU, GOD !!
I RANG THE BELL BUT NOBODY ANSWERED, SO I LET MYSELF IN

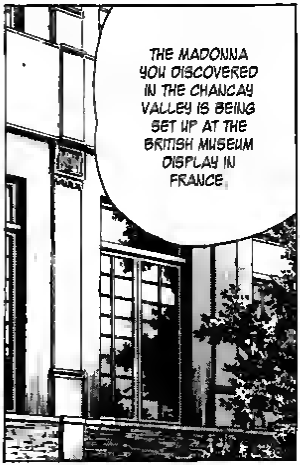
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT
OHHHH!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN MY FATHER EXTEND HIS HAND TO OFFER A HANDSHAKE BEFORE!!

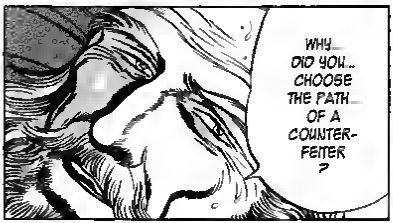
NO, LIKE FATHER AND SON ...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE MET BUT THEY LOOK LIKE OLD FRIENDS ...
I HAD A HARD TIME BRINGING IT BACK TO THE FAST...
AS PERFECT AS MY AGING DEVICE IS, IT JUST REFUSED TO WORK RIGHT
ALFRED DOSSENA IS A GREAT SCULPTOR, AND I'D BEEN OVERTHINKING THIS DUE TO YOUR NAME VALUE
BUT AMIDST MY DESPAIR, I NOTICED I'D MADE SUCH A SIMPLE MISTAKE
HO HO HO ...
I'D FORGOTTEN THAT YOU WERE A COMPLETE AMATEUR WHEN IT COMES TO AGING ARTIFACTS ...

O K !


NOW THE LUSTER IS A PERFECT MATCH.
I SUB-MERGED IT IN ACID 37 TIMES.

THE MADONNA YOU MADE HAS OUTLIVED ITS PUR-POSE.


THE MADONNA YOU DISCOVERED IN THE CHANCAY VALLEY IS BEING SET UP AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM DISPLAY IN FRANCE.

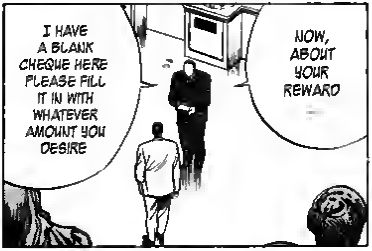

WHY... DID YOU... CHOOSE THE PATH... OF A COUNTER-FEITER ?

... BE-CAUSE I CAN SEE THE ORI-GINALS !

THAT'S FOR THE BEST. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SEE THE WORKS OF ALFRED DOSSENA CAN JUST COME HERE.

I'VE HAD OFFERS COME IN AT TEN BILLION APIECE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF ANY OF THEM.
IM-PRESSIVE NO WON-DER THEY CALLED HIM A GRAND MASTER

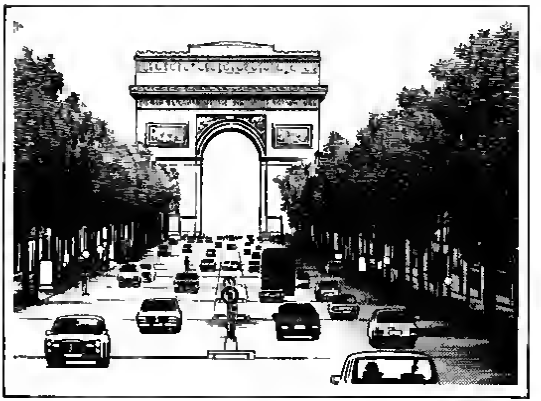
.....


I HAVE A BLANK CHEQUE HERE PLEASE FILL IT IN WITH WHATEVER AMOUNT YOU DESIRE
NOW, ABOUT YOUR REWARD

I'LL TAKE THIS AS MY REWARD
MY FATHER WOULD OFTEN MAKE THESE UNSHAPELY RATS WHENEVER HE HIT A BLOCK IN HIS SCULPTING
HUH ?

OH, DEAR! I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE LEFT THIS PIECE OF RUBBISH OUT AGAIN ..!

THAT'S FOR YOU YOURSELF TO DECIDE -
IT'S NOT UP TO OTHERS TO DECIDE WHAT THE VALUE OF AN OBJECT IS
IF YOU WANTED ONE OF MY FATHER'S SCULPTURES, I'D MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU. YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY ONE YOU LIKE!
BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN WORTH A PENNY !
HIS NAME, NATIONALITY, AND ORIGIN ARE UNKNOWN
ZERO -
THE MAN WHO CAN REPLICATE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD -
MIRACLE OF ART NOUVEAU - END



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1 ゼ　ロ

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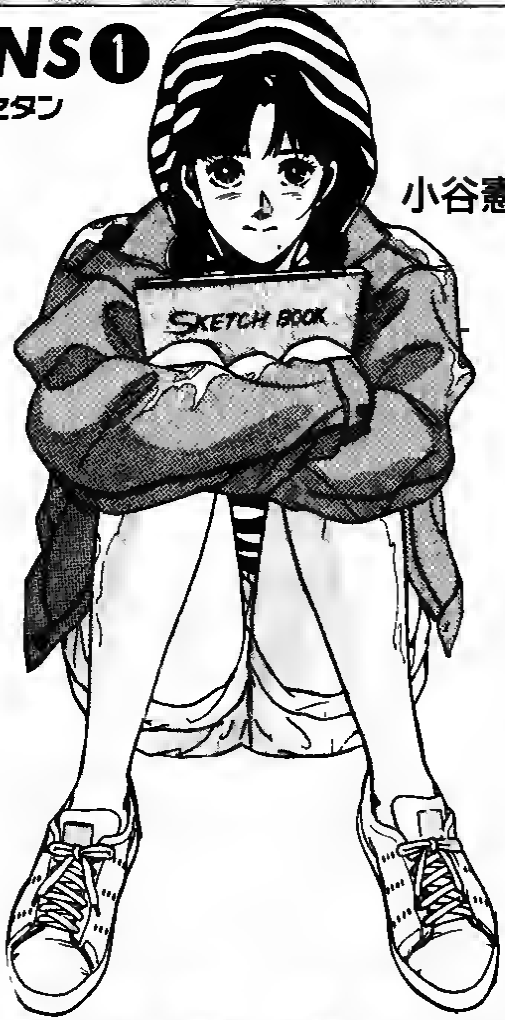

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